Satellite launched, hits 'difficulties'

CAPE CANAVERAL (R) — A \$270 million communications satellite was launched into orbit Wednesday but run jute difficulties in the second crisis to strike the Western space business in less than a month. Mission controllers struggled to establish proper contact with the satellite, designed to provide talephone and television communications for more than 160 countries. The intelest entellite was launched from Cape Consveral about it. to provide telephone and television communications for more than 160 countries. The intelest extellite was launched from Cape Cameroral about a powerful U.S. Titus rocket owned by the Martin Marietta Carp at 6-52 a.m. (1152 GMT). A spokesman said the satellite was "encountering difficulties" and that more information would be made available inter. Intelest officials said some contact had been made with the orbiting craft and wore rejected to declare the mindes had been made with the orbiting craft and wore rejected to declare the mindes had been to be the contact and wore rejected to declare the mindes had been made with the orbiting craft and wore rejected to declare the mindes had been declared. Intelest emicans and some contact had been made with the orbiting craft and were rejectant to declare the mission lost. If was a setheck to the fledgling U.S. private satellite-learnching business established after the destruction of the space similite Challenger four years ago. Western Europe's finiving space business, led by the French, was juited Feb. 22 when its Ariente 4 rocket exploded 101 secunds after launch from the French space centre at Kourou, French Guyana.



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تَضَمَّر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية ،الراي،

Iraq, Syria 'reject water plan'

ANKARA (R) - Syrin and Iraq have rejected a Turkish plan dealing with the use of water from two major rivers in the area, Turkish Foreign Ministry sources said Wednesday. Ankara's plan for sharing waters from es and the Tigris, which start in Turkey, was discussed by experies from the three countries who ended a five-day meeting in the Turkish capital Monday, they said. Earlier this year Turkey diverted the Empirates for a meach to fill a new dam, causing tension in ties with the two neighbours whose agriculture and irrigation largely depend on the river. The sources and Syrian and Iraqi experts insisted on a system under which the supplies would be shared on the basis of each country stating its water needs. "But the added figures exceed the total potentials of the whole healn. We left a deadlock," one said. Under Ankara's plan the three countries would study ways of reducing water wastage by improved irrigation methods, the source said.

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, MARCH 15-16, 1990, SHA'BAN 18-19, 1410

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Qasem, Waldegrave

Minister Marwan Al Qasem Wednesday discussed questions related to the situation in the Middle East at a meeting with British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs William Waldegrave. The two ministers expressed satisfaction with the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) response to the peace efforts and reviewed dangers threatening prospects for peace in the region resulting from the continued immigration of Soviet Jews who settle in the occupied lands. The two sides stressed the need for the implementation U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242, 338 and 465 on Israel's withdrawal from occupied Arab lands, and reaffirmed that settlements in Arab territories are illegal. Oasem arrived here from Tunis after attending the Arab League Council's 93rd meeting, which discussed developments in the Palestine issue and the Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine among other issues.

E. German conservative

EAST BERLIN (R) - East German conservative leader Wolfgang Schmur, accused of spying for the former Stalinist security police, resigned Wednesday, just four days before the country's first democratic election. His withdrawal as head of the Democratic Awakening Party dealt a severe blow to the three-party Conservative Alliance for Germany backed by West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl. Schnür, who had been tipped as a possible prime minister, issued a statement which for the first time stopped short of denying that he had been an informer for the hated Stasi security police.

Thatcher appoints new minister

LONDON (AP) - Prime Minisday named David Hunt, a junior lar new local tax, as the next Welsh secretary, a promotion to her will replace Welsh Secretary Peter Walker by mid-June, a statement from Thatcher's office said. Hunt now is the environment minister, a post that does oot have cabinet rank. Walker, one of only three members of Thatchcr's original 1979 cabinet still in office, announced March 4 that he planned to resign this summer, saying he wants to spend more time with his family. His announcement came weeks after Employment Secretary Norman Fowler resigned, also citing fami-

no politicai prisoners

freedom for political prisoners newspaper, October 14, on

Mongolian unions

ULAN BATOR (R) - Mongolia's powerful trade unions threatened Wednesday to divorce themselves from the country's beleasuered Communist Party in what officials and diplomats said was a serious blow to the party's weakening grip on power. The challenge was laid down as the party's 240 central committee members met for a third day and prepared for a late-night vote expected to accept the resignation of their leader. Zhambyn Batmunkh, and the seven-man polithuro.

Gorbachev unopposed for powerful presidency

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Legislators narrowly agreed Wednesday that they, and not the Soviet people, will elect the nation's oew, powerful president, and Mikhail S. Gorbachev was put fourth as the only candidate.

The decision to hold the emergency eletion in the Congress of People's Deputies, the country's parliament, came after a respected scholar warned that a nationwide campaign would lead to civil war.

Gorbachev was nominated for the post by the Communist Party Central Committee, which met hurriedly during a break in the session, the TASS news agency

Premier Nikollai 1. Ryzhkov and Interior Minister Vadim A. Bakatin were nominated as the only two other candidates by a group callling itself "Soyouz," or "Union "opposed to efforts by Soviet republics to break away. Butboth withdrew their names. Balloting was to begin later

Wednesday night in the Krem-lin's Palace of Congresses, and results were expected Thursday morning (local time). Gorbachev would only need a simple majority - 50 per cent plus one vote -

Although uncontested, Gorbachev could still be defeated if less than 50 per cent of the 2.250 congress members participate in the vote or if the majority of those voting cross his name off the ballot. That was highly unlikely, however. On Tuesday, Gorbachev was able to push through some of his more unpopular proposals by receiving a two-thirds majority of the con-

Despite the virtual guarantee

that Gorbachev would be elected president no matter what his competition, several legislators took the floor to say they were appalled the congress could not come up with a viable alternative. The vote rejecting a bid by radicals for national elections to

choose the country's president was 1,542 to 368, with 76 absten-Earlier Gorbachev had accused

his opponents of deliberately holding up the crucial vote.

This is clearly an attempt to

lead parliament astray," a testy Gorbachev had told deputies as a host of amendments aimed at trimming the new presidential powers stalled progress at the

One amendment that got the oecessary two-thirds vote will subject a presidential declaration of martial law to approval by the



Mikhail Gorbaches

national legislature. It will also make a state of emergency be declares in any republic subject to approval by the republic.

Many deputies told the assembiv their constituents had urged them to have national elections for the presidency rather than confining the vote to the con-

(Continued on page 3)

Security Council delays session on Jewish influx

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) - Security Council negotiations are under way to reconcile U.S.. Soviet and Arab draft resolutions which criticise Israel's settlement of Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied territories.

A formal meeting of the council, tentatively scheduled for Thursday, was postponed indefinitely after Arab ambassadors decided Tuesday that more time was needed to organise the meeting in light of the crisis in the Israeli government that has complicated peace prospects.

The Soviet Union - which originally requested the meeting Arab and most non-aligne states have denounced Israel's settlement of Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied territor-

Arabs set up

boost trade

Arab World.

\$500m fund to

The United States also is too harsh. opposed Israel's settlement policy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. But the U.S. criticism in its resolution is mild, expressing only "regret" at the new settlement, while the Soviet criticism is stronger, saying the council "deplores the illegal practices" of

Israel in the new settlements.

Both U.S. and Soviet drafts call upon the government of Israel to end the settlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied terri-The language of an Arab draft

resolution condemned the settlements and was more strident, diplomats said, A British resolution was said to attempt to bridge the gap between various resolutions, seeking to avert a U.S. veto of a resolution that it might deem

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has said that a "big Israel" was needed to accommodate a big immigration from the

Soviet Union.

In another development, Jerusalem's Israeli mayor, Teddy Kollek, said Wednesday that Presi-dent George Bush had written to bim promising that the United States supports a "mited Jerusalem."

Jerusalm "must never again be

divided city," Bush wrote in a March 13 letter to Kollek and distributed at a news conference in the occupied city. Kollek also distributed the letter he wrote to Bosh March 8

Bush warned against "steps that could prejudice the prospects" for Arab-Israeli negotia-

tions on Jerusalem's future, but wrote nothing about Jewish settlement in the Arab sector of the

Last week, Bush made a state-

ment apparently lumping Arab Jerusalem with the West Bank Israel strongly objected, saying Jerusalem was a separate issue. Asked a news conference at the Isreali embassy whether be be-lieved Bush's letter cancelled the American president's earlier statement, Kollek said, "that is my strong impression."

Bush wrote: "It is also our view that the final status of this most special of cities should be decided by negotiation, and that this negotiation would be facilitated if we were well along the path

(Continued on page 3)

Government promises to take steps to reinstate fired employees after sit-in

By Mariam M. Shahin

ABU DHABI (R) — Arab fi-nance chiefs approved Wednes-day the establishment of a \$500-AMMAN — Approximately 150 million fund intended to keep as much trade as possible within the Prime Ministry demanding the Finance ministers from the and the reinstatement of 950 peo-Arab League and the heads of the ple dismissed from their jobs for

five main Arab monetary and political reasons. development funds passed the project at their annual meeting in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates. "We want to divert trade going overseas (to non-Arab states) and

get it flowing around the region," said a senior official of the Arab According to the protesters, there are 35 political prisoners still being held, but the interior Monetary Fund (AMF). Profits and other benefits from the rest of Arab trade are there-

fore at best split with industrialised countries, where Arab states buy most of their food and manufactured goods and where they export most of their oil.

The new fund will become

operational in July, when countries can start applying for financing for trade projects involving exports of Arab-made goods to other Arab states.

Mioister of loterior Salem and Sa'd Hatter Masa'deh appeared on the scene

people Wedoesday staged a three-hour sit-in outside at the release of "political" prisoners

The demonstrators called for the immediate release of still detained "political" prisoeers and a set timetable of no more than a month for the reinstatement of all those who had lost their jobs for political reasons.

minister said that there were only

At the outset of the sit-in. relatives and families of prisoners scuffled with 20 riot policemen who attempted to move them from the Prime Ministry's main gate to the back entrance.

Eyewitoesses said police clashed briefly with a number of demonstrators with batons before Depoty Prime Minister and

and expressed his readiness to meet with representatives of the There was no reason for any-

one to get hit," said Zarqa Deputy Saad Haddadin, who is also a member of the Democratic bloc in the Lower House of Parliament, who was present at the

"The guards demanded that the crowd move away from the gate, which was not really necessary in my opinion, but I talked to the demonstrators and they agreed to move away 50 metres, Haddadin added.

After meeting for one bour with three representatives of the demonstrators and Haddadin, Masa'deh told the crowd the goverriment intended to meet all their demands but within its

A senior government official said Wednesday that the matter of dismissed persons was "no longer political but an administra-"The government is trying very

hard to reinstate them," he said.

A member of the delegation that talked to Masa'deh, Jamil Nemri, said that the delegation sked the minister to set a timetable of no more than one month to reinstate 950 Jordanians who

had been sacked from their jobs. Masa'deh told reporters while the government did not commit itself to a set time-table, it promised to reinstate the sacked people within its "financial capabilities and in accordance with

availability of openings."

During a meeting of the Public Freedoms Committee earlier in the week, dismissed persons charged that promises by the executive body as well as parlia-

mentarians had not been fulfilled. Nemri said that 27 Jordanians who had been dismissed from their posts for political reasons were recently reinstated at the Ministry of Education.

Government officials have said that they are giving priority to nissed from their jobs over the 49,000 job-seekers registered with the Civil Service Commis-

Likud, Labour woo religious politicians ahead of vote today TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The crument, barring a last-minute leaders of Israel's collapsed coalibid by Labour in the supreme court to move a oo-confidence

The timing was important. If the vote took place on Wednes-

day, then the outgoing Labour

ministers would retain their jobs

- and thus their political powers

- until a new government was

A vote Thursday would fall

motion forward a day.

formed.

tion government wooed a handful of religious politicians Wednesday in a bid to form a new administration.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, the rightist Likud party leader, and sacked Vice-Premier Shimon Peres, who heads the rival leftist Labour Party, courted bearded rabbis in black robes demanding public observance of Jewish law and government cash for religious schools.

Shamir and Peres, whose unity government collapsed on Tuesday over the prime minister's refusal to accept U.S. proposals for first-ever peace talks with Palestinians, each hope to win a parliamentary noo-confidence vote.

The winner, backed by four small religious parties holding an 18-seat swing vote in the 120-seat legislature, plans to set up a government without his political

The two leaders, meanwhile, accused each other of toppling the 15-month-old coalition. An opinion poll in Yedioth Ahronoth, Israel's largest selling newspaper, said both were to blame.

There won't be peace so long as Shamir heads this government" Peres told Israel radio.

The Knesset, or parliament, was due to vote Thursday on whether to bring down the gov-

outside the 48-hour limit when the Labour Party, resignations would take effect. The coalition fell apart when

Shamir fired Peres as finance minister and other Labour ministers quit the cabinet. In Washington the State De-

partment said the United States remains committed to the search for peace in the Middle East, although the process has been complicated by the political crisis that has split the Israeli cabinet.

told questioners at the department's briefing Tuesday that the United States does not believe the Israeli political crisis means "the end of the road" for the peace process, although it certaioly complicates it.

Spokesman Margaret Tutwiler

We're committed to the peace process, which is why we went down this road to begin with last April," she said, noting the Uoited States was "asked to get engaged" by Shamir.
"We got engaged," Tutwiler

pointed out, "in a big way. We remain willing, ready to continue to work on what is at issue here... which is to bring peace to this

regioo. Tutwiler said she would not "inject" berself into Israel's internal problems, but she noted the Israeli political crisis was "evidence" of how hard the ministers had been "wrestling" with the difficult problems posed by the

peace process. Totwiler pointed out that Secretary of State James Baker has been working diplomatically for mooths to develop a framework for establishing an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue leading to elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, which was the focal point of the initia-

tive Israel announced last May. "We think the basis has been laid to make progress, and we remain ready to work with the government of Israel in an effort to help it realise the potential of its own peace initiative," Tutwil-

In December, both the Israeli and Egyptiao goveromeots agreed in principle to a five-point framework advanced by Baker; two weeks ago the secretary said he was awaiting a response from the Israeli government on a series of questions concerning that diplomatic framework.

(Continued on page 3)

Iraq reportedly rejects **Hurd visit over journalist** LONDON (Agencies) — Iraq and media pressure," INA said.

has rejected British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd's offer to visit Baghdad this weekend to try to save a British-based journalist charges, the Foreign Office said

The Iraqi authorities said it was not the right time for a visit," a

Iranian-born Farzad Bazoft, 31, a reporter with the Observer ocwspaper, was arrested last September while investigating reports of an explosion at an Iraqi military complex.

An Iraqi court sentenced him to death last Saturday and imposed a 15-year jail term oo British ourse Daphne Parish, 52, who drove him to the site.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Tuesday night, President Saddam Hussein could not intervene to reduce the death sentence while under political and media

The agency, quoting a Foreign Ministry spokesman, alto said the

British reaction to the sentence "President Saddam Hussein could not decide to intervene in

sentences while under political

the cases of Farzad Bazoft and Daphne Parish to reduce their

Hard, who is to attend a joint meeting of the European Community and the Gulf Cooperation Council in Oman oo March 17, and discuss the cases of Bazoft and Parish with President Hus-

Under Iraqi law, Bazoft and Parish cannot appeal against their sentences, but the president can intervene on their behalf.

Britain has launched an international campaign for clemency. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said she was horrified at the sentences and had written to Hus-

sein asking him to intercede.
United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, His Majesty King Hussein, and Palestine Liberation Organisatioo Chairman Yasser Arafat have also lent support to the campaign.

"The statements made by the British authorities about the just and legal sentence passed on the spy of Iranian origin, Bazoft, and Parish, were characterised by hastiness," INA said.

"As we know, this is not the way to make the presideot of Iraq intervene and use his constitutional powers to reduce the sentence," it added.

Carter in Damascus, will discuss hostages

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter arrived Wednesday and said he expected to discuss the plight of foreign hostages in Lebanon with President Hafez Al Assad.

"It's obvious to me that the Syrian leaders are very eager to see the hostage question solved and so see the hostages released." Carter told reporters on arrival at Damascus international

The former president, who arrived from Egypt, was due to meet Assad and other officials before continuing his tour with visits to Jordan and Israel.

Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa, who greeted Carter, said be was "not pessimistic" about freeing hostages in Lebanon.

"As we did exert a lot of efforts in the past to gain the release of so many hostages... we are still ing to exert such intensive efforts," Sharaa said.

Seventeen Westerners are missing and believed held by pro-Iranian militants in Lebanon, where Syria has stationed 40,000 troops and is the main foreign

There have been persistent reports in recent weeks of U.S.-

power broker.

Iranian talks on freeing the captives, who include eight Americans and three Britons. Both Washington and Tehran have denied the reports.

Carter, who spent his last 14 months as president struggling to win freedom for 52 American hostages in Iran only to see them released as he left office in Janoary 1981, said Iranian leaders had great influence on the captors of the Lehanon hostages

"There is no doubt that leaders of Iran have great influence on the future of the hostages," Carter said

Carter said he had a "series of constructive" meetings with Assad starting in 1977 in Geneva. adding that Syria was a "very significant" part of his current Middle East tour.

Carter, who brokered the 1979 Egyptian-Israeli treaty, said his talks would cover issues related to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the peace process in the Middle East and how to improve ties between Damascus and Washing-

"We hope for a comprehensive settlement for all the issues including those between Syria and Israel in the future," he said.

Militias battle in W. Beirut; calm in east

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Militia battles swept west Beirut's southern suburbs Wednesday while across the religious divide in battered east Beirut, civilians enjoyed a respite from six weeks of all-out war.

Security sources said dozens of gunmen of the pro-Iranian Hizbolish (Party of God) and militiamen of the Syrian-backed Arnal fought with machine-guns, rockets and mortars in the heavilypopulated districts of Ouzai and Bir Hassan.

Residents and motorists. caught in the crossiire, rushed for cover as shops, schools, banks and businesses closed. Police said fighters of the two warring factions battled with

propelled grenade launchers across the narrow streets separating their areas of infinence. The intra-Shi ite confrontation was in the Shiyah, Ouzai and Bir Hassan districts, a few blocks west of Hizbollah's Hajjaj and Hay Madi barracks where West-

automatic rifles and rocket-

Germans, two Swiss, an Italian and an Irishman. Police said three people were

Syrian soldiers intervened and disengaged the combatants around 1 p.m. (1100 GMT).

since the Amal-Hizbollah clashes broke out Tuesday evening. attempted to consolidate a ceasefire in the war for the control of Lebanon's Christian enclave be-

The east Beirut-based Al Diyar newspaper said Wednesday Aoun and LF leader Samir Geages issued orders to their men to

The inter-Christian was

Elias Hrawi to take control of the Christian enclave saying: "The legitimacy should expand its authority on all the country. It should not await the invitation of

Hrawi has said he would only intervene to halt the bloodshed if he was asked officially by Christian political and religious leaders. Aoun has rejected Hrawi's authority and is holding out in the presidential palace in the suburb of Raahda

Aoun's forces and the LF ac-

cased each other of blocking

efforts by a Christian mediation

ment to their bloody dispute. Geagea's command, in a statement. accessed Aoun's troops of

atmosphere tense and block efforts to normalise the situa-The Lebanese Forces' chief of

gagement of forces." "I don't understand why the general continues to refuse the disengagement of forces," Malek said in an interview broadcast by the militia's Voice of Free Leba-

Aoun's Radio Lebanon, in a commentary, reiterated the general's rejection of "the socalled normalisation of the situation" stressing that "a political settlement should be worked out prior to any other step."

The remark reflected persisting differences between Aoun and Geages on ways of working out a settlement to their dispute.

Germanys, allies start formal talks

BONN (Agencies) - The two German nations and the four World War II allies Wedner began their first formal talks on German unification, taking a preliminary look at the enormously complex difficulties that lie No decisions are expected in

Wednesday's preliminary round of discussions by lower-level officials from the two German nations and the Soviet Union, the Uoited States, Britaio and The one-day talks are part of the "two-plus-four" formula of

unification discussions agreed on last month in Ottawa. There has not been any announcement on the timing or place of the next round. Wednesday's discussions are

expected to be mainly procedu-After their morning talks, the delegates began a meeting with West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher. Before the Genscher meeting,

18 officials from the six nations

began their talks at an enormous round table inside the West German Foreign Ministry. The chief East German delegate, Deputy Foreign Minister Ernst Krabatsch, was asked whether Wednesday's meeting had any real meaning since the current East German government

will likely be voted out of office in Sunday's elections. "One can speak about everything which is concretely before us," Krabatsch responded.

He also reiterated East Ger-

many favours the participation of

all concerned nations in unifica-

tion talks at some level. "We've always favoured... including neighbouring countries all interested countries, including Poland" in unification discus-

West German Television said

the officials will discuss alternating the sites of the next meetings in the capitals of the "participating countries." A day earlier, West Germany said Poland could participate in

sions, he said.

Poland had demanded to be included in the talks because it wants to make sure that its territory, which includes some formerly German territory ceded to it at the end of World War II, remains untouched.

the international talks when Po-

land's Western borders is being

West Germany had said initially that the concerns of all interested nations would be addressed during the unification pro-

ા કર્યાં Volume 15 Number 4341 discuss Mideast

LONDON (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign

leader quits

ter Margaret Thatcher Wednesminister in charge of an unpopu-22-member cabinet. Hunt. 47.

Aden says it has

ADEN (R) — A South Yemeni official has said his country was holding no political prisoners and voiced readiness to receive a humen rights group to confirm it. The authorities will allow... a human rights group to visit any place to confirm there are no political prisoners," Deputy Secretary General of the Yemen Socialist Party Salim Saleh Mohammad said. The official's remarks, to a group of South Yemeni women who paraded in Aden last Monday demanding they claimed had been held since 1986, were published in the daily

challenge party

ern hostages are believed held. The captives are eight Americans, four Britons, two West

killed and 10 wounded before That brought the overall toll to seven killed and 34 wounded

In east Beirut, mediators tween troops of General Michel Aoun and Lebanese Forces (LF)

observe the trace. The ceasefire, declared after Lebanon's Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Butros Sfeir threatened to excommunicate both Aoun

and Geagea, has been seriously breached during the past week. Security sources said no "significant" violations were reported

erupted Jan. 31 after the LF refused an order by Aoun to disband. More than 810 people have been killed and 2,650 wounded in fierce close-quarter tank and artillery fighting. Sfeir Tuesday urged President

shooting at civilians to keep the

staff. Fuad Malek, stressed that "the proper procedure that could stabilise the ceasefire is a disen-

Israeli coalition collapse deals fatal blow to Mideast peace bid

By Alan Elsner

WASHINGTON - The collapse of the Israeli government may have ended the best chance of making real progress toward solving the Arab-Israeli conflict in the past decade, analysts

While some tried to find a silver lining, the predominant reaction among Washington officials, diplomats and analysts interviewed by Reuters was one of gloom. Several said they believed the current round of U.S.-sponsored efforts to arrange an Israeli-Palestinian peace dialogue was dead.

"The immediate reaction is that yes, it's all over now," said Geoffrey Kemp of the Carnegie **Endowment for International** Peace. "Potentially, it's a disaster. There's now a big question mark over how long the Arab position can hold in its

The fragile Israeli left-right government folded when Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir dismissed Labour Party leader Shimon Peres from the government and rejected his demand to agree to peace talks with Palestinians in Cairo.

Administration officials were reluctant to comment on what was likely to happen next. President George Bush Tues-

day told a news conference: "Right now in Israel there's internal developments taking place in the political scene there and I do not want in any way to

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mingle into the internal affairs of Israel. It's so sensitive, it's so emotional and I just think any further speculation on this question would certainly not be usefal."

Dennis Ross, the senior State Department official widely seen as the architect of the U.S. initiative, told a Jewish group Monday that the current peace opportunity should not be missed because the chance to talk with Palestinians who were ready to negotiate with Israel might not repeat itself. Historically, missed opportunities for peace in the Middle East have been followed by periods of radicalisation in which all sides sharpen their positions. Such developments, more often than not in the past, have led to intensified violence.

After months of painstaking diplomatic efforts, Secretary of State James Baker had succeeded in gaining Palestinian and Arab support for a dialogue with the Israeli government aimed at paving the way to elections in the occupied territories, where a Palestinian uprising has been raging for 27

It was widely seen as the most productive round of Mid-dle East mediation since Israeli-Egyptian talks on Palestinian omy collapsed 10 years

But Shamir hesitated about mmitting Israel to the talks. His hesitation turned to refusal after Bush 10 days ago expressed opposition both to Israeli suburbs of East Jerusalem and West Bank settlements, jabbing point, control of the holy city. "The United States played a

very good game but lost the endgame. The fall of this government is very much against U.S. interests," said Barry Rubin of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

Rubin said the best chance for moving forward was if Peres would form a coalition with leftist and religious par-ties. But he said this was a slim

Elections, a more likely outcome, would delay matters for months and there was no certainty that a new Israeli govent would be any more posed to make conc

for peace.
"Shamir will try to make it an election over Jerusalem and the need to resist U.S. pressure. It's the best possible issue for him," said one Israeli source in

"Months of election rhetoric will harden positions on all sides and I'm afraid it will be difficult to get back to where we were," the source said.

Syrian troops watch for attempts to move hostages out of south Beirut

BETRUT (AP) - Syrian soldiers tions. guard gateways of two Shi'ite Muslim slum districts in south Beirut in case kidnappers try to smuggle out Western hostages,

"I am sure they are all alive," Sheikh Mohammad Mehdi Shamseddin, spiritual head of Lebanon's Shi'ite community, said recently. 'That much I can safely

Other senior Shi'ite sources who claimed to know also said that the captives were alive and that most were in south Beirut. All agreed to talk about the situation only if granted anonym-

Police said Syrian troops had tightened control around the Hajjaj and Hay Madi districts. Syria has 40,000 soldiers in Lebanon under an Arab League peacekeeping mandate issued in 1976, the year after the sectarian civil war began.

"They are searching everything coming out from both neighbourhoods, where most of the hostages are thought to be imprisoned, even funeral processions and caskets," said a police spokesman, whose name cannot be used under standing regula-

Syrian soldiers have not tried to storm any suspected hideouts of kidnappers, apparently for fear of killing hostages.

Eighteen Westerners are missing in Lebanon and believed to be hostages, including eight Americans.

Terry Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent of the Associated Press, has been held longest, since March 16, 1985.

The captives have been moved often, in car trunks or coffins, either to escape fighting among Shi'tte factions or to avoid detec-

Frencb journalist Jean-Paul Kauffmann, freed in 1988, said be nearly suffocated in a box that was slung beneath a truck. Anderson, 42, was said to have been chained to a basement wall

of a ruined Beirut hotel during his early days as a captive. Freed hostages have said they,

too, were held in basements, or sometimes in apper-floor apartments with no access to windows. All said they heard jet planes landing and taking off, which supports the belief that most hostages are in the southern slums near Beirut's airport.

Shi'ites claiming to be close to the kidnappers often have approached news agencies in Beirut offering to help free Anderson or Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite, in return for as much as \$1 million for each hostage. None of the offers was believed to be legitimate.

Waite, 50, disappeared Jan. 20, 1987, after leaving his hotel in mainly Mushin west Beirut to negotiate for the freedom of Anderson and other Americans.

President Hashemi Rafsaniani of Iran has asked pro-Iranian factions in Lebanon grouped under the umbrella of Hizbollah, or Party of God, to free the hostages. But the Shi'ite sources in Beirut believe Rafsanjani has little influence with the militant Hizbollah wing that controls the

hostage-holders. Hizboliah militants are loyal to Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, the hardline former interior minister of Iran, who helped found Hizbollah while he was Iran's ambassador to Syria in the early 1980s. Anderson is held by a group calling itself Islamic Jihad, or Islamic holy war.

"Rafsanjani's hostage behests are a cry without an echo," said a about to be freed.

senior Shi'ite source. "Rafsanjani wants a deal with the United States to unblock Tehran's frozen assets to cope with Iran's economic crisis, which is generating anti-government public senti-

"Mohtashemi and other hardline opposition leaders have a stake in maintaining the crisis so they can agitate against Rafsanjani, so no bostages are likely to be released in the near future."

The United States holds billions of dollars in Iranian assets that were frozen after the storming of the U.S. embassy in Tehran in 1979. Fifty-two Americans were held 444 days.

Rafsanjani and other Iranian leaders have said Iran would beip get the hostages in Lebanon released if the United States freed the assets.

This week. Mobtashemi said some of the captives were spies. and argued against freeing any of

the "mercenary U.S. hostages." Support for the hard-liners came March 6 when a group holding American hostages Joseph Cicippio and Edward Anstin Tracy broke a seven-mouth silence to say no captives were

Gulf papers ridicule Israeli coalition collapse

NICOSIA (R) - Arab newspapers in the Gulf Wednesday described the collapse of Israel's governing coalition over a U.S. plan for Israeli-Palestinian talks as a manoeuvre, a ridiculous scenario and a tragic comedy.

"This is basically a manoeuvre and a ridiculous scenario which has been expected." the Saudi Arabian newspaper Al Rivadh said of Tuesday's coalition breakup.

The problem faced by the Israeli government is that it wants to show the world it is democratic with room for various ideologies while Zionlst mentality is dominated by religious interpretations which have assumed the force of law," it said. The view was shared by

KABUL (R) - Afghan Foreign

Minister Abdul Wakil Wednes-

day accused Pakistan of organis-

ing the failed coup against Presi-

dent Najibullah last week and

said he had written to the U.N.

'In my letter to U.N. Secretar

General Javier Perez de Cuellar I

have drawn his attention to evi-

dence that Pakistan actually orga-

nised the coup," Wakil told a

Earlier, Officials said Pakistan

only collaborated with Defence

Minister Shahnawaz Tanai, who

led the putsch against Najibullah,

and with hardline Mujahideen

Wakil said Tanai fled to Pakis-

tan after failing to topple Najibul-

lah, who came to power nearly

four years ago after heading

Khad, the country's feared intelli-

gence and secret police agency.

ever set foot on Pakistani soil or

that its military intelligence ser-

vice was behind the coup bid.

95 civilians died when mutinous

air force pilots dropped bombs on

government buildings, the pres-

idential palace and a neighbour-

hood where several embassies are

Diplomats in Kabul say 200

loval and mutinous soldiers were

killed in street fighting, particu-

larly in a ferocious tank hattle at

the Ministry of Defence building.

located

17:10

The Afghan government said

Pakistan officially denies Tanai

leader Gulbuddin Hekmatver.

news conference in Kabul.

secretary general with proof.

another Saudi newspaper, Al Yom, which said "the seriousness of (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir's manoeuvre is that it has placed Israel's political future in the hands of extremist

parties. "This manoeuvre is definite proof of Shamir's rejection of any peace initiative to resolve the Middle East conflict.

Al Bayan, of Dubai, said the dismissal of Shimon Peres, leader of the Israeli Labour Party and the Likud Party's partner in the coalition, "is merely part of a scenario to gain time to implement Israel's expansionist de-

"We don't believe there are real differences among Israeli rulers, whether they belong to the

Meanwhile, one person was

killed and II injured Wednesday

when Mujahideen rebels fired

rockets on an industrial park on

the outskirts of Kabul, a Foreign

It was the first such attack on

Anti-Communist Mujahideen

rebels have been launching rock-

et attack nearly every day on

Kahul since the Soviet Union

withdrew the last of its 115,000

troops from Afghanistan in

February, 1989, after a nine year

Diplomats in Kabul have

speculated that the Mujahideen

might seek to exploit the appa-

rent split in Najibullah's govern-

ment after the abortive coup by

intensifying attacks on Kabul and

the embattled eastern towns of

Rhutto denies charges

Benazir Bhutto Wednesday de-

nied Kabul's charges that her

military intelligence service was

involved in last week's coup in

Afghanistan but said the putsch

offered a chance for a bold peace

"The coup was sudden and unexpected," she said.

by our own security services but it

was not predicted by any of the

"Not only was it not predicted

Meanwhile Pakistani Premier

Khost and Jalalabad.

Ministry spokesman said.

the capital since

attempt, he said.

Kabul blames Pakistan for coup bid

Labour or Likud Party, on the

main aims," it added. Al Ittihad, of Abu Dhabi, saw in the Israeb coalition government collapse an obstruction to attempts to resolve the Middle East conflict.

"The actual result of what happened in Tel Aviv is that a settlement has been hampered and the Arabs should reconsider the situation on this basis and in the light of international changes which the enemy is trying to exploit," it said.

In a similar commentary, the

security services of the world,"

she said. "It took everyone by

No Pakistani agencies or

Afghan guerrilla gronps based in

Pakistan had anything to do with

Speaking at her first majo

news conference for six months,

the prime minister said last

week's events exploded claims by

Afghan President Najibullah that

support of the people of Afgha-

nistan... his former colleagues are

turning against him because they

see in him the main obstacle to

the resolution and restoration of

peace in Afghanistan," she said.

over Tanai's rebels, the prime

minister said, he had emerged

much weaker and that provided

fresh opportunities for a political

"I think this is a time for a bold

new initiative," she said. "I think

that this is a time for not only

Pakistan to stop playing

favourites, it is also a time for the

Soviet Union to stop playing

towards the people of Afghanis-tan and ask the people of Afgha-

nistan what they want I am sure

we could work out a settlement."

some Arab states are the main

backers of Mujahideen guerrillas.

Pakistan, the United States and

"If everyone agrees to turn

favourites.

Despite Najibullah's victory

"Not only does he not have the

English-language Kuwait Times said, "the collapse does not call for optimism and the Zionist entity's aims are the same irrespective of the governments in pow-

the putsch, she said.

he had mass support.

It warned that the collapse may be a major setback for the peace process in the Middle East, if such a process really exists."

Bahrain's Akhbar Al Khaleej described the Israeli government crisis as a tragic comedy and cautioned the Arab countries not to be optimistie.

This comedy has not ended yet and the worst is still to come,"

Al Raya, of Qatar, said "we should bank neither on the Likud nor on the Labour Party but should be on the alert for what is lurking for us and for Zionist

"Otherwise, we will lose much and again be sorry but too late."

minesweepers

MANAMA (AP) — The three

last U.S. minesweepers that have

been operating in Gulf waters

war were pulled out this week in

view of a reduced mine threat,

The sources would not give the

exact itinerary for the USS En-

hance, USS Esteem and USS

Conquest, which are headed for

their home ports on the U.S. west

But they said the vessels would

need a minimum of 40 days to

The three 720-ton, wooden-

hulled vessels were loaded

aboard a contracted Datch

heavy-lift ship, Super Servant III,

The vessels, equipped with

state-of-the-art sonar and search

gear for mines, were part of a

group of six that were rushed to

the Gulf as part of the U.S. Navy

bnildnp to thwart Iranian

attempts to attack shipping in the

More than 100 mines were

found by U.S. vessels from late

1987 until the U.N.-sponsored

tween Iraq and Iran in August

fire went into effect be-

according to the sources.

reach homeport.

oil-rich region.

U.S. naval sources said Wednes

leave Gulf

3 U.S.

Algeria may hold early parliamentary elections

ALGIERS (R) - Algerian President Chadli Benjedid has said early parliamentary elections demanded by the country's newly legal opposition might be held.

Benjedid in an unprecedented 41/2-hour meeting with the Algerian press Tuesday, said the par-ties should first show they were solidly implanted in the country and respected the rules of its emerging multi-party democracy.

"Are all the parties truly well implanted? Do they have a territorial base that enables them to face these elections,?" Chadli asked. His remarks were published Wednesday.

Algeria abandoned one-party

duled its first multi-party elections in 40 years on June 12 for town and provincial councils. Most of the new opposition parties, led by the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front, have de-

manded early parliamentary elec-

politics last year and has sche-

tions as well. The current National Assembly, entirely composed of memrs of the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN), is not due to be renewed until 1992. Benjedid, who is also FLN president, did not exclude the possibility he might "cohabit" with an opposition government. He was elected in 1988 for a third five-year term.

"My presidential mandate stems from the popular will. As bead of state I will work for all Algerians and I am thus obliged not to distinguish between existing political parties," he said, adding he had no intention of leaving the FLN.

Benjedid reiterated support for the government of Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche, who is struggling to implement an ambitious economic reform programme against opposition from FLN conservatives and widespread social unrest.

"I have promised to implement the reforms, and as long as I am in this post the reforms will be implemented with complete respect for the constitution," Bendid said.

The reforms, conceived in the early 1980s but still only partially nted, scrap central economic planning adopted in the 1960s and give state firms financial and management autonomy.

Iran frees 20 Egyptian PoWs

GENEVA (R) - Twenty Egyptian prisoners of the Gulf war flew from Tehran to freedom Wednesday and walked hesitantly down the ramp of an Iran Air plane in Geneva as if unsure they were really being set free.

But the prisoners, dressed in gray prison camp uniforms, soon broke into smiles.

They were flying later to Cairo under the supervision of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Lehanese Muslim fnndamentalist Sheikh Saeed Shaaban, wearing a brown robe and a white turban, walked off the plane ahead of the prisoners. An Iranian official told Reuters

the Sunni cleric, who has close ties with Tehran, mediated the The prisoners louked to be

between 25 and 50 years old. One older man had to be helped down the ramp by other prisoners.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

The Egyptians fought for Iraq against Iran in the eight-year Gulf war. An unknown number are

still being held prisoner. The ICRC says that because Iran has denied it access to non-Iraqi prisoners it cannot be sure that some of the Egyptians were not simply workers seized in border areas during the fighting.

The 20 prisoners released Wednesday represent less than one per cent of the 100,000 prisoners held by the two sides, with neither Iran nor Irao making any more than token repatriations.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati arrived, on the same plane but refused all comment. He is in Geneva to address the .U.N.-sponsored conference

The ICRC interviewed the 20 Egyptians in Tehran Tuesday night to be sure they wanted to return. Egypt and Iran have no diplomatic ties.

Cheney: U.S. may sell Patriot missiles to Isi ael

WASHINGTON (R) - The United States is considering the sale of a sophisticated air defence package to Israel for protection from ballistic missile attack, U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney

That package, he said, would probably include some U.S. Patriot anti-aircraft missiles now assigned to Western Europe. The Patriot has in past tests been used to interest and destroy other missiles in flight. Chency spoke to young members of the United Jewish Appeal

and was asked about a Los Angeles Times report that the Bush administration had agreed to provide Israel with Patriots and satellite information to counter any threat from ballistic missiles in Syria and other countries. 'We have not yet finalised arrangements in this area," he

replied, "We have talked with the Israelis... about a number of ways of dealing with the increasingly sophisticated ballistic missile threat... which you have in the Middle East. Cheney said that early-warning radars and Patriots were among

items which he had discussed with Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin. "The Patriot is a sophisticated air defence system that has

significant capabilities," he said.

Chency said the United States was deeply concerned about what it has called Libyan production of chemical weapons, which

some analysts have warned could be used in missiles. Cheney said he planned to visit Israel in May and vowed that the U.S. commitment to its security was unshakable. Ouestions have risen about that commitment in recent months.

Republican leaders in Congress and Secretary of State James Baker raised the possibility of a cut in the U.S. aid package to Israel in order to provide more aid to emerging democracies in Eastern Europe

Cheney did not comment on possible cuts but defended a U.S. decision to transfer 700 older U.S. M-60 tanks from Western Europe to Egypt over the next few years.

He said he was not concerned that the Soviet Union might also send some of its second-line tanks from Europe to Libya and other countries in the region instead of destroying them as part of any arms reduction agreement in Europe.

"It (the M-60 tanks switch) has not been objected to by the government of Israel," Chency said. "I'm not concerned about that kind of (Soviet) transaction. I haven't seen any evidence of it

Israel not interested

Meanwhile an Israeli military official said Wednesday Israel is not interested in purchasing a new air defence missile that has

been offered by the Pentagon.

The official, who insisted on anonymity, described the American-made Patriot missile as "one of the best anti-aircraft units," in the world.

But, he added, as an anti-ballistic missile system "it only gives limited solution to the missile problem, so we don't intend to buy

at this stage." "We are looking at other systems," he said, but would not elaborate.

Israel currently is working with the United States to develop an anti-missile system called the Arrow. The United States is contributing about 80 per cent of the \$158 million development cost under its Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), or "Star Wars." Surface-to-surface missiles were widely used in the Iran-Iraq war, raising fears in Israel that they could be employed against the Jewish state in a future conflict.

Other Flights (Terminal (2)

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as, Dubai (EK) Cairo (MS)

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180 / 140 200 / 160

150 / 100

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JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19

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CHURCHES

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This information is supplied by Royal lordenian (RI) information depart-ment at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (18)53200-5, where it

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JORDAN TELEVISION

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PEAYER TIMES

Intifada committee appeals for funds, answers critics

By Sana Ativeh Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - The Jordanian Popular Committee for the Support of the Intifada will launch a week-long series of activities to commemorate the Battle of Karameh and to express solidarity with the 28-month-old Palestinian upris-

At a press conference Wednesday at the Jurdan Medical Association (JMA), the under-secretary of the committee, Mandouh Abbadi, said that the national week for the support of the intifada was aimed at highlighting Jordan's solidarity with the Palestinian struggie against Israeli occupation and to collect donations for the families of martyrs and the wounded - the boundaries within which the committee

"Giving money to those who are struggling and sacrificing their lives is the duty and responsibility of all Jordanians and Arabs everywhere." be said. "This form of (financial) support is the least we can do to help our suffering brothers and sisters in the occupied territories." Abbadi told journal-

He called on every citizen in Jordan, "whether child, em-ployee or farmer," to donate any sum of money - "even if it is only 50 fils - on collection day scheduled on the last day of activities March 28. He said that 750 people would be stationed in 57 different centres with 250 boxes in the Greater Amman area to collect dona-

"We are counting on people's generosity, especially that

collection day will be during the Holy Month of Ramadan. We have printed 250 fils coupons, and we hope to collect JD 250,000," Abbadi said. Banners would be hung on the streets to remind people of the importance of supporting the intifada," he added.

He explained that all the funds collected by the popular committee are directly distributed to the Palestinians who have been injured and to families of martyrs.

Abbadi, president of the JMA, criticised "certain elements who are accusing the committee of not ensuring that the money gets to the Palestimans inside the occupied terri-

"We have been accused by different people in public gatherings that the money we collect is not reaching the right hands. Those who want to know how the money is distributed are invited to the association to witness that the money is taken directly by Palestinians from Abbadi said.

He said that after providing the proper documents, families of martyrs are given JD 1,000, while the wounded take JD 200

According to Abbadi, the popular committee had raised JD 489,227 from the beginning of the year till March 14. So far this year, the committee distrihuted JD 147,929 for 739 wounded Palestinians, and JD 60,000 for families of 60 mar-

In 1989, the committee was able to collect only JD 1,084,921, while in 1988, JD 1,324,155 was collected.

In further support Abbadi's argument against accusations

of mismanaged funds, several Palestinians from the territories collecting their shares of the money came inside to talk about why they were referred to the popular committee for support by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Safia Mashwakhi from Rafah refugee camp in Gaza explained that she had five cheques to collect for her martyred brother and her other wounded brothers. She said that her 17-year-old martyred brother, Atalla, was shot in the heart by Israeli soldiers with "dumdum" bullets that explodes in the body. "These are internationally banned bullets, but the Israelis use them anyway because they can get away with breaking all international laws," she commented.

Twelve-year-nld Khaled Shawwa, also from Gaza, exposed his injuries in front of reporters and cameras, five bullets in his chest, one of them in the heart.

"My brothers and I walked outside the house, when the Israeli soldiers told us to stop, and they just shot us," Khaled said matter-of-factly, adding that be was then taken to an interrogation centre for half an hour before being taken to Al Shifa hospital in Gaza. "But after surgery, the army took me out of the hospital by force, even though the doctors pro-tested," Khaled added.

His mather, Fatima, also told the gathering about how Israeli soldiers broke into her house and started hitting her other younger son, aged 10. "I told the ufficer I was an Egyptian citizen and that I would complain to the Egyptian embassy, and be ordered the



As the intilada continues, the Jordanian Popular Committee for the Support of the Intifada provides financial assistance to the wounded and families of martyrs (file photo)

soldier to shoot me. But he beat my arm with his gun and it broke in twn places. The Israelis don't care if you're Egyptian nr not... so much for Camp David," Fatima said.

Many of the victims collecting money wanted to tell their stories. But nne injured man summed it up: "Life under Israeli occupation means martyrs and wounded. There are parents who have lost two and three children," he said

'Dental day race'

whistle blows Friday

to spread awareness

emotionally.

Abbadi stressed the need to support the uprising, and called on all citizens and institupolitical seminar.

tions to actively participate in the national week for the supministry port of the intifada, which will include public speeches, nationalistle poetry recitals, Palestinian and Jardanian folkloric songs and dances, a football game between Al Diffatein and Al Faisali Clubs, as well as a charity dinner and a

Union, NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF Crown Prince attends graduation

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday attended the graduation ceremony for a new batch of people's army recruits and delivered a brief address underlining the importance of national unity. Prince Hassan said that the graduates can pool their resources and knowledge to enrich the Jordanian society to help it move ahead.

Regent visits geography centre

AMMAN (Petra) - His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday visited the Royal Geographic Centre where he met with the centre's Director General Uqla Al Duheimat. The Crown Prince was briefed by Duheimat on the centre's programmes and activities and the services it provides for both the public and private sectors.

. 1989 budget law endorsed

AMMAN (Petra) — The Upper House of Parliament Wednesday endorsed the 1989 budget law and a draft law on an annex for the 1989 budget, following a lengthy debate. Prime Minister Mudar Badran, who attended the meeting along with cabinet members, told the Senate that the government was committed to refraining from issuing any annex to fiscal budget unless they are approved by the Lower House in accordance with Article 115 of the Jordanian constitution. The Senate earlier endorsed an amendment to a law on Islamic courts and an amendment to a law on the armed forces officers services.

Ramadan working hours announced

AMMAN (J.T.) — Office hours in government departments during the mouth of Ramadan will be from 9:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., according to a communique issued by Prime Minister Mudar Badran. The communique said however that certain departments which require special arrangements, can have different office hours as seen fit by their directors during the holy mouth. Normally, office hours in government departments are between 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. During Ramadan all restenrents, liquor stores and nightchubs remain closed in Jordan from dawn to dusk while fasting is observed. The prime minister urged all heads of departments to ensure that fasting rules be observed during Ramadan which is expected to begin March 27.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press, Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

90

EXHIBITIONS

- * Exhibition of plastic artists Arij Al Hamad and Ibrahim Al Nabalmeh at the Housing Bank Complex.
- * Art exhibition by seven Iraqi artists at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (10 g.m. 8:00 p.m.)
- * Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Mahmond Issa at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * Plantic art exhibition by Mohammad Al Abedi at the Yarmouk University.
- Art exhibition displaying paintings on gines and silk by Wafan Tarawach and Awai Al Khatib at the Professional Associations Complex.
- Abdibition of oil pointings by Jordanian artist Hisham Deheim
 at the Royal Cultural Centre. * Photographic exhibition "The Soviet Village on the Path of

Perestrolka" at the Soviet Cultural Centre.

- * Soviet film entitled "Tank T34" at the Soviet Cultural Centre — 5430 у.ш.
- # Feature film entitled "It's a Wondertol Life" at the American Centre -- 7:00 p.m.
- * The 1996 American film festival of funtasy and comedy features "The Geomies" at the Philadelphia Theatre Friday at 8:00

ministry dispute intensifies

AMMAN (J.T.) - A dispute hetween land transport and mechanical workers union in Jordan and the Ministry of Labour Wednesday intensified following a threat by the director of the Damascus-based Arab Labour rganisation (ALO) to report the matter to the International, Labour Organisation (ILO).

The ALO threat fullowed Minister of Labour Qaseem Obcidat's recent decision to dissolve the union's administration board and to hold union elections. Despite the minister's decision, the board members were still working normally. The union is backed by the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions in the Kingdom.

(Continued from page 1)

"Obviously, there's a political

crisis in Israel" now, Tutwiler

said, "and until that is sorted out, Israel won't be in a position to make a decision." She added,

"We obviously will be watching

this process closely and I'm not

going to make any other com-

ments on internal political de-

Asked if the United States bore

any responsibility for the Israeli

political crisis; Tutwiler replied:

In parliament, Shamir told his

Likud caucus Labour was to

hlame for accepting Washington's insistence on a peace role for the

Palestine Liberation Organisa-

tion (PLO).
"Our initiative clearly intended

to take the PLO out of the arena.

But the State Department put all

its energy into focusing on the

PLO and the Labour Party said

nothing would move without the PLO," Shamir said.

"With the PLO there is no

chance for peace. They do not

want peace. They want a divided

and crumbled Israel," be said.

in Yedioth Ahronoth showed 35

per cent backed Shamir in the

current dispute and 36 per cent

backed Peres. People were equal-

ly split on which party should

Egypt, in its first reaction to

the collapse of the Israeli govern-

ment, said Wednesday it was

following with great concern the

"Egypt is following with great

concern the ministerial problem

in Israel," Minister of State for

Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali

"(Egypt) hopes it will not

affect the diplomatic effort to

head the government.

developments there.

The poll published Wednesday

velopments in Israel."

'Absolutely not."

Amman Friday to culminate a week-long campaign tn spread awareness among school students and the public about the importance of dental care. JDA President Ishaq Al Khairi

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan

Dentists Association (JDA) has

organised a "dental day race" in

told a press conference Wednesday that the race was intended to demonstrate the association's interest in supporting health, as well as sports and youth activities' and spread public awareness about dental care. The 3.7 kilnmetres race will be

held in Amman's suburbs with approximately 1,200 participants from various parts of the King-

JDA spokesman Farah Atallah

establish a dialogue between the Palestinians and the Israeli gov-

On Wednesday, Shamir's first

order of business was trying to patch up differences with rivals in Likud, among them superhawk

Ariel Sharon whn resigned as

trade minister and called for Sha-

mir to abandon the current peace

Wednesday against Shamir's leadership, but Likud sources

said there would be no move to

unseat the premier unless he lost

the no-confidence vote. Shamir,

according to recent polls, is still

the most popular of Likud lead-

But Reuven Rivlin, a political

associate of Hnusing Minister

David Levy, a Shamir rival in

Likud, snggested the prime

minister should quit to strengthen

Likud's support from religious

parties, which have criticised Sha-

mir for failing to keep his prom-

The most scathing attack came

from parliament member Yigal

Bibi of the National Religious

Party. He told the Jerusalem

Post: "We should vote no confi-

dence in Shamir. He has nn

spine, he is not honest. He is an

indifferent man with no trace of

Likud alliance, which has ruled

Israel through eight stormy years

of constant political crisis, came

when Shamir fired Peres from the

government Tuesday, and the

party's 10 other ministers res-

As Likud and Labour started

wooing small religious parties,

especially the two-seat Torah flag

party, which could become the

kingmaker, Rahbi Avraham

The collapse of the Labour-

tradition."

There were gramblings

ernment," he told reporters.

Likud, Labour woo religious politicians

said that JDA, the ministries of health, education and youth distributed 10,000 posters on dental care to schools.

Th JDA campaign which started last Saturday included lectures on dental health at youth centres, women associations, sports clubs and schools in various parts of the country as well as free dental examinations by 120 dentists.

A representative of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in Jordan told the last week dental conference abnut health and dental services offered to refugees in UNRWA's field of operations in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Ravitz, the party head, told re-

porters he favoured a comprom-

ise to save the Labour-Likud

coalition. He proposed Shamir

reinstate Labour ministers and

the government accept the U.S.

plan with the proviso that Arab

Jerusalem Palestinians be ex-

cluded from proposed negotia-

Labour appeared to have the

edge in a no-confidence vote

although a Peres aide insisted late

Wednesday that "we have no-

thing wrapped up."
Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz, whose

Shas party is divided on whether

to support Shamir, told reporters,

I greatly doubt that anyone in

Israel knows which way the vote

will go.'

Sukhneh camp lacks essential services

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Palestine refugee camp near the town of Sukhneh in the Zarqa governorate lacks basic services such as paved roads, running water, recreation centres, telephones and social centres, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The agency quoted Taha Ersilan, the mayor of Sukhen, as saying that nothing could be done in view of the difficult financial conditions. "The municipality can by no means carry ont improvements on its own," he said.

The mayor in an interview with Petra which sent a team of reporters to the area, said that the camp was partly controlled by the Foreign Ministry Department of Palestinian Affairs and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

There is no playground for the children nor are there sufficient funds to light all the roads and streets," the mayor said. He said that the whole camp was being served by one garbage truck which was not enough for the needs of the growing population.

Local residents blamed UN-RWA and the government for the lack of services. They demanded a vocational centre for handicrafts, proper sanitation, telephone and postal services and special assistance to disabled persons.

area of 73 dunums, was visited Tuesday by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, during a tour of Zarqa governnrate. The Regent inspected camp services and listened to resident demands. Residents called on the Regent to urge concerned government departments to improve the camp's Meanwhile, Zarqa Governor Mnhammad Al Shohaki announced that the director of the Department of Palestinian Affairs, Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, plans to inspect the refugee camp soon to determine the needs and to refer requests to the concerned government departments. He said the governor's office was giving proper attention tn the problems of the camps and ways to improve services to the re-

The department's representative in Zarqa, Hisham Al Beek, said the department was providing certain services, although the camp should be fully maintained by UNRWA which now only provides educational and health services. He said that the camp was set up on private property and the department has to pay annual rent to its owners.

Libya pledges aid to **Awqaf**

AMMAN (J.T.) - The International Islamic Daawa Society in Libya has pledged \$400,000 to the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs in Jurdan to help finance the construction of Islamic law schools in the Kingdom and offered \$100,000 in assistance to students from the occupied Arab territories studying in Jordanian universities nn an annual basis, Minister of Awgaf and Islamic Affairs Ali Al Faqir said here

Wednesday.

The minister made the statement upon returning here from Libya where he met with the society's officials and members. He was also received by Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi. They discussed cooperation in Islamic

"The society has pledged to provide assistance to the families of martyrs living in Jurdan and agreed to set np a joint Jordanian-Libyan Awqaf Council to handle waqf and endowment funds for religious affairs," the minister said.

He said that an initial agreement was reached with the society to set up a joint investment company which will yield profits to finance Islamic projects.

"The agreement provides for exchange of information and publications, visits by Muslim scholars and preachers and cooperation in teaching religion at universities and institutes in both countries," the minister said.

Shamir chuld head off a

Labour victory in parliament by going to President Chaim Herzog

and resigning the government,

thus preventing a vote. Herzog would then chose which party

should try to form a new govern-

If Peres won a no-confidence

vote or was chosen by Herzog, he

would try to form a Labour-led

coalition with left-wing and reli-

gious parties. Shamir would stay

as head of a caretaker govern-

A Likud victory would give

Shamir control of the govern-

ment. But if the margin was

narrow, he would likely face new

votes of no confidence in the near

Cabinet backs aid to southern regions

ernment by a special committee to deal with the effects of drought in the southern parts of Jordan have been endorsed by the Council of

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the committee chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Salem Masa'deh had recommended that funds be spent in the form of loans in the Karak, Tafileh and Maan regions to purchase animal

The interest-free lnans will be partly guaranteed by the state and will be distributed through the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC).

According to Petra, sufficient water supplies will be made available for livestock and farms free of charge. Remote villages will be

supplied with water by trucks.

Press reports said that at least

AMMAN (J.T.) — Recom-mendations submitted to the gov-these projects. these projects.

According to Petra, earth dams and agricultural roads will be built and artesian wells will be repaired to ensure sufficient flow

In addition, loans to local municipal councils will be rescheduled for 1990 and 1991 through arrangements with the Cities and Villages Development Bank, the agency said. The National Aid Fund (NAF), which normally provides assistance to needy groups, will also make additional allocations to finance income generating projects, Petra said.

At least one quarter of a \$1 million fund, originally allocated for the development of the highland regions in the three governorates, will be used now to initiate agricultural projects. All pasture lands in the three areas will be

Bulgaria voices full support for intifada

AMMAN (Petra) — Bulgaria's Deputy Fnreign Minister and President of the Religious Counexpressed his country's full support for the Palestinian intifada in the Israeli beld Arab territories and condemnatinn of Israel's practices against the Palestinian people.

Popov, m a meeting with Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ali Faqir, condemned Israel's plan to settle Jews in the occupied Arab lands and expressed hope that the Palestinian people will

regain their legitimate rights.
Popov said "Bulgaria had transformed its system from a one party-system into a pluralistic democracy which ensures freedoms for all religions, political groups and public organisations."

Bulgaria's Mufti (Islamic refigious leader) Dr. Nediu Gemdgev, who is accompanying Popov on his two-day visit to Jordan, told lims' rights were now guaranteed. and they enjoy full religious free- . dom. They use Arabic and Isla-" mic names which were earlier forbidden, he said.

Faqir urged the Bulgarian government to prevent Jews from emigrating to Palestine because this emigration is detrimental to the rights of the Palestinian people and harmful to the peace process," Faqir expressed Jordan's sup-

port for the new changes in Bulgaria which ensure human rights. and religious freedoms.

The minister said Jordan wasready to offer Muslim students courses at its institutes in Jordan.

Regional IBS meeting opens

AMMAN (Petra) - The sixth conference of the organisation of the International Baccalaureate School (IBS) opened Wednesday in Amman. Taking part in the regional conference are IBS teachers from eight Arab and

Her Royal Highness Princess curricula.

Sarvath, chairwoman of the IRS board of trustees, reviewed in her opening address the history of the International Baccalanreate School in Amman, its aims, philosophy, plans and programmes. She discussed the possible addition of an Islamic, Arabic culture and language programme to the

Security Council session

(Continued from page 1) toward peace. There is thus no intention on our part to focus now on the final status of Jeru-

Israel's semi-governmental agency resposible for Jewish immigration has asked Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to ease censorship on Soviet Jewish migration to Israel, nfficials said

"The Jowish agency might meet difficulties with fund raising organisations all over the world. which are expected to raise \$200 million a year," said Gad Ben Ari, spokesman for the Jewish Agency.

The Likud-led coalition government was strongly criticised by Israeli and foreign media after it imposed sweeping censorship on news of Soviet Jewish immigration March 2.

Gorbachev

(Continued from page 1)

But Alexander Yakovlev, Gorbachev's right-hand man on the Communist Party's ruling politburo, said the congress had to move quickly to create the presidency in view of pressing problems m the Soviet Union.

"A popular vote sounds attactive. It is indeed a great idea. But current crisis," he said.

"There is a struggle now between the supporters of perestroika (restructuring) and those opposed. We are at a crucial

Gorbachev, the party leader and parliamentary chairman, faces a host of problems, including an economy in shambles.

ANNOUNCING The Spring Exhibition Bani Hamida Women's Weaving Project Friday, March 23 to Thursday, March 29, 1990 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. at the Bani Hamida House Jabal Amman, Rainbow Street Tel: 658696/7 Save the Children Project

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Sweet talk or double standards?

THE ARAB side has lately been hearing lots of sweet talk from Washington, notably on Arab Jerusalem and the elusive Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. To be sure, the Arab World has received such positive news with a great deal of appreciation and gratitude. Above all, the Arabs saw in these reassuring statements from the U.S. administration prima facie evidence that Washington was indeed taking bold steps and decisions on the stalemated peace process. Yet, all these comforting developments come against the packdrop of hard and disturbing news: First came the information that Washington bad decided in principle to provide Israel with an additional \$400 million to settle Jewish immigrants ostensibly in Israel proper. As if that was not bad and ominous enough, an even more alarming news from Washington followed, confirming the long-held Arab suspicion that the U.S. has decided to provide Israel with its latest auti-missile and state-of-the-art early-warning systems to offset any possible danger from Arab rockets. No wonder then Tel Aviv faltered once again on the peace process. What tossible incentive can Israel have to negotiate peace with the Arab side as long as its arsenal is regularly refurbished with the latest U.S. arms and technology and its collers replenished with extra funds to populate its lands and the occupied territories with new waves of immigrants. Against these conflicting signals from the U.S., the Arab V/orld is left perplexed as to which side of the American story to believe and place its trust and confidence in: The side that makes Israei all the more stronger and confident or the side that intoxicates the Arabs with sweet talk? What is even worse is that all these conflicting signals from Washington are coming at a time when the division between the Liked and Labour parties in Israel on the American formula for Palestinian-Israeli talks has reached a climax and culminated in Shamir simply firing his deputy Shimon Peres irom the cabinet. This was clearly a bid by Shamir to precupt any attempt to exert last-minute pressure on him to yield to reason and common sense and accept the American terms for Israeli-Palestinian talks.

With this in mind, the Arab side has no valid reason to put its trust in the newly articulated U.S. policy on the Middle East except when it is backed by deeds and actions that lend it coherence and credibility. And as long as Washington pretends that it is twisting the arms of Tel Aviv to start talks with the Palestinians while at the same time it is filling up Israel's coffers with extra funding and its arsenals with latest U.S. weapons, U.S. intentions will always be

Jondan Press Editorials

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Wednesday said that the collapse of the Israeli coalition government can by no means end the uprising in the occupied Arah territories because neither Shamir oor Peres has had the intention of recognising the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland. The paper said therefore the Arah countries ought not take so much time contemplating about such development inside the Israeli government; and the media should not take so much time discussing in vain what would come next on the Israeli political scene. What the Arabs and their media should concern themselves with, the paper said, is the question of mobilising their own force and launching a meaningful and concerted effort to help the Palestinians in their struggle to regain their usurped territories. The paper noted that Peres and his Labour Party did not resign simply because they had wanted to recognise the rights of the Palestinians but rather because of differences with the Likud over methods to suppress the intifada. The paper said that until Israel is prepared to swap peace for land, and until a real change inside Israeli politics takes place there can he no alternative but to rally Arab ranks and prepare the Arab Nation for all eventualities.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily discusses the private schools in Jordan, criticising the unjustified high rate of school fees they impose on the students and their parents. Nazih says in his column that the private schools tend to raise the amount of fees under the pretext that they were trying to improve the educational facilities for the students: but in fact nothing changes for the students and nothing improves. The writer notes that the Ministry of Education has set up a special department for private education; and questions its functions. This department ought to interfere in the schools' affairs and find out about the improvements these schools claim to be introducing through additional fees exacted from the students. The writer points out that oarents have been complaining all the time about the behaviour of these schools, and demanding that the Ministry of Education take some action to put an end to irresponsible actions, especially under the current difficult circumstances through which Jordan is now going.

The downfall of the Israeli government following deep differences between Labour and the Likud means that Israel is no more concerned with the elections question nor with dialogue with the Palestinians, Sawt Al Shaab daily said Wednesday. The options are many and varied, not only for Israel but also for the Arabs in terms of dealing with the outcome of the new developments in Israel, said the paper. The Arabs, it said, can, through the intifada, hring about further pressure on the Israelis and cause more changes within the Israeli society. But, it added, the success of Snamir in having the upper hand in politics could usher in an era where Israeli extremists can rule supreme and affect all moves by a Likud-led government in the future. As long as external influence on Shamir and the Likud is diminishing, the paper said, the only remaining power that can interfere in this situation is the United States which can really hring pressure to bear on the Israeli government. The paper expressed hope that the American administration will exercise its power that can lead to a just peace. It said in the absence of a collective Arah action, there is no alternative but to turn to Washington for a solution.

Talking Straight

By Dr. Marwan Muasher

Lessons from our infant democracy

THE first ordinary session of the eleventh Jordanian parliament will be over at the end of this month. The Jordan it will leave behind in March of 1990 will be drastically different from the Jordan it received in November of 1989. These four months will go down in history as the most eventful period Jordan has ever witnessed. Indeed, Jordan has faced two major facelifts that have probably changed its course for good in the last decade: The economic crisis of 1988/1989 and the return to parliamentary life

Now that the country is, to use a popular local cliche, at a crossroads, it might be useful to look back at the last four months and examine what the country has done in relation to the political and economic transformation of the recent months. The lessons which we, collectively as a society, have learnt point to the enormous, maybe even unexpected, maturity that this state has demonstrated. It is this maturity that adds positively to the arguments of the optimists who claim that we have it within ourselves to overcome our present difficulties.

First, Democracy is not sufficient to solve our problems. It is only necessary. After the enphoria of experiencing democracy and freedom of expression is starting to subside, parliamentarians in particular, and society at large in general, are starting to realise that the return to democratic, parliamentary-based life is only the beginning of the road. Democracy does not ensure a solution. It is only a necessary first step. Putting it into action goes beyond the nice rhetoric and easy criocisms into huilding parliamentary and poliocal institutions that will ensure a proper system of checks and balances. That process of building the legislative institutions is even more difficult than huilding the institutions of the executive branch, which themselves are until now not fully developed. Members of parliament have started to realise this now, a good first step towards taking action. After four months in office, parliament has discovered that it has not yet been able to touch oo a subject as serious as say the economic crisis and to set clear policies for the future. Parliament will soon discover, if it has not already, that huilding its institutions will take time, money and human resources. Democracy creates the proper and needed atmosphere to create such a system. Our own efforts, and time. have to take care of the rest.

Second. Parliament's collective power is more than the sum of its individual members. The results of the last election were a shock to many, not only because of the political orientations of the candidates who won, but also because of their educational backgrounds. The parliament was judged by many to be not accurately reflective neither of the average political mood nor of the average educational standard of the country, Today, it has become apparent that these fears, even if true, are partly irrelevant. Regardless, even in spite of the qualifications of individual members of the parliament or their poliocal orientaoons, the presence of an insotuoonal set-up through which the political game is played always ensures that parliament draws its power not necessarily from that of its individual members, but rather from its collective body. Few people today contest the fact that this has been one of our strongest parliaments. The recent decisions which the government took towards increasing degrees of freedoms granted to citizens can be clearly attributed to the presence of a parliament sympathetic to these demands, and regardless of whether it is parliament or the government which is presently taking the initiative. This leads to the conclusion that the presence of a parliament, any parliament, always outweighs its absence.

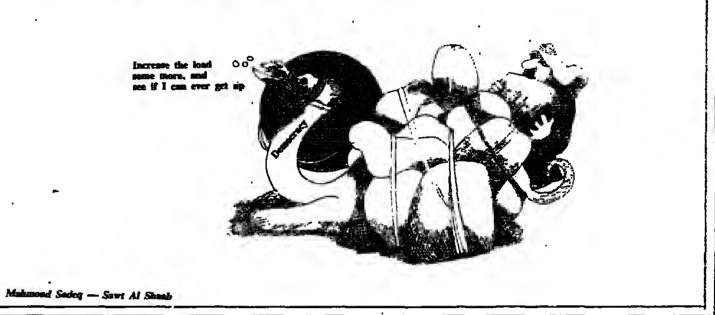
The Third lesson that we as a society have learned from the past-four months is that Jordanians have demonstrated they are a pharalistic society. The results of the last election have shown that regardless of the way electoral districts were defined, regardless of the percentage of voter turnout, regardless of all the details. shortcomings or positive points in the electoral law, Jordanians have elected members of parliament from all walks of the political spectrum. Signs are today that all existing or upcoming political parties are going to respect this freedom of choice. It is an extremely healthy sign when a party like the Muslim Brotherhood declares through its parliamentary spokesman that it can accept the existence of a Communist Party. It shows the willingness of political parties to listen not only to the wishes of their own constituencies, but to those of the state as well. This is the maturity and the attitude that is needed so that we can join forces in solving the country's problems. Parliament members, have so far, despite the obvious political inexperience of many of them and the lack of established parliamentary procedures, displayed a remarkable ability to work together. Jordanians are also pleasantly surprised to realise that the existence of political parties with ideologies different from their own is not a good reason to question the future of the country on. The experiences of the last four months have gone beyond any, indeed often contrary to our, educational upbringing in teaching us the concept of tolerance of

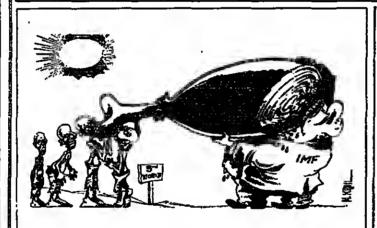
Fourth, the ability of Jordanians to adapt should never be underestimated: If someone would have predicted five months ago the transformations that Jordan has gone through in such an orderly, peaceful and responsible manner. I would have told him then that it was next to impossible. Yet this society has proven that it can absorb shocks, react to calamity with reason, effect change and respond to it with determination and levelheadedness. It is true that this society had its share of unrest,

riots, witch-hunting, uncertainty and frustration. But this should not cloud the fact that it is also dealing with its problems with far less chaotic behaviour than in many parts around the world. This apparent, if surprising, ability to adapt should be accentuated and encouraged. It is a trait we will badly need to guide us through our economic crisis while simultaneously huilding our political institu-

Lesson number five is that contrary to earlier fears, democracy has made Jordan stronger. The net result of free elections coupled with both the government's and parliament's clear commitment to an orderly transition to a power sharing system has been to give Jordan added weight as a democratic country. Instead of pass fears that democracy can destabilise Jordan , the fact is today that Joradn enjoys more respect, and hence more strength, among neighbouring Arab countries in particular and the international community in general. Instead of often being on the receiving end of regional politics, Jordan for the first time is becoming a trend setter in the area, influencing perceptions by the people of their social and poliocal conditions. A tremendous positive element has been added to the already good reputationJordan enjoys in the world. It is an element we can and should take advantage from.

I hope the conclusion here is not taken to mean that the picture is rosy in Jordan. It is far from that yet. We have so much homework to do. Many Jordanians have simply lost hope in the political or economic future of this country. Others are leaving. Private investment is yet to pick up. But we should also make no mistake about it. There is a lot of good that has come out of the experience of the last four months. Sometimes, it tends to be overshadowed by the higger problems facing us. We should never, however, lose track of it. There are already several positive points in our society that we can continue to stress and huild on. And if the coming period keeps producing the same mature attitudes that we have seen in the first four months of the life of onr parliament, I, for one, can only be hopeful.





Latin America's democracy threatened by debt

By Anthony Boadle Reuter

SANTIAGO - Chile's return to democracy has turned a page on over two decades of military dictatorships in Latin America, but the region's debts threaten to undermine its new-found political freedom.

"Latin America is a volcano that is about to erupt," Vene-zuelan President Carlos Andres Perez said during the inauguration of Chilean President Patricio Aylwin, who took office on Mar. 11, ending 16 years of military rule.

Leaders and intellectuals say Latin America's \$416 billion debt has impoverished their countries and caused social problems which could reverse an unprecedented move to democratic government. Austerity measures applied in

oil-rich Venezuela sparked riots in which at least 180 people were killed in February, just 15 days after Perez was sworn in for a second term.

"If Venezuela is not able to reschedule its foreign debt, the sacrifices that brought this social explosion will never bear fruit," Perez told a news conference in Santiago.

The departure of Chile's General Augusto Pinochet marks the first time in South America's history that all its independent nations are living under elected governments.

Eleven Latin American countries have held elections since March last year, including Nicaragua where the Sandinistas have agreed to hand over power Peru, Colombia and Guatemala will go to the polls this year.

In Brazil, the third world's largest debtor natioo, the first directly elected president in 29 years, Fernando Collor de Mello, was scheduelled to take office on Mar. 15.

During the 1980's one military regime after another gave way to civilian rule. But new governments have failed to solve severe economic problems and raise living standards, discrediting elected leaders.

Economic crises forced Argenona's Raul Alfonsin to resign the presidency six months before his term ended last year. His successor, Carlos Menem, has so far failed to tackle economic stagna-000 and the galloping inflation that soared to almost 5,000 per cent in 1989.

Once the region's richest nation, Argentina has been rocked by waves of looting by hungry inhabitants in major cities.

Latin Americans fear the West's new focus on Eastern Europe will divert badly needed aid and investment away from their continent during the 1990's. compounding the region's diffi-

Experts say democracy will not prevail in Latin America unless the drain of resources into debt servicing is reversed.

The net flow of funds out of the region last year totalled \$25 bilhon, almost one-fifth of total exports, according to the United Nations' Economic Commission for Latin America (CEPAL).

Only five Latin countries were up to date with interest payments in 1989, while three of the largest debtors, Brazil, Argentina and Venezuela, were for the first time simultaneously overdue.

Communists remain influential in S. Africa

By Barry Renfrew The Associated Press

ca — Despite the failure of Communist regimes around the world, the south African Communist Party remains an infinential and popular force that has not given up its goal of a Socialist state.

While its actual membership is tiny, many blacks respect the South African Communist Party because of its prominent role in opposing the country's whiteminority government. Red Communist flags and slogans are com-mon in black townships and at anti-government demonstrations. Nelson Mandela, the African Nacional Congress leader rescased Feb. 11 after 27 years in

prison, hailed the party in his first speech on the day he left prison.
"I salute the South African Communist Party for its sterling contribution to the struggle for general of the party, says the speech on the day he left prison. Africa beyond ending white-minority rule is how to handle the contribution to the struggle for general of the party, says the government vehemently denounced the party, portraying its members as Soviet agents plotting to huild a Marxist slave state. government officials routinely democracy ... we are heartened by the fact that the alliance between ourselves and the party remains as strong as it always was," he said.

The party's call for a Socialist state and a redistribution of wealth also appeals to many poor blacks who see the white-dominated capitalist economy as a pillar of apartheid. Communists claim that whites, who make up less than 15 per cent of the popula-tion, control 98 per cent of South African's wealth.

Joe Slovo, the white secretary-

"The fundamental aim of economic policy must be the redistribution of wealth," he said in a recent statement.

President F.W. de Klerk legalised the Communist Party and other anti-government groups Feb. 2 to help start talks on ending white-minority rule and sharing political power with the hlack majority. The party, founded in 1921, was banned in 1950, but operated underground in south Africa with headquarters in

For years the South African

claimed that black nationalist groups were Communist fronts.

Little is known about the highly secretive party. Estimates of its strength range from a few hundred members to a few thousand members with the communists refusing to give any detailed information on the party.

The secrecy makes it difficult to assess the party's strength or evaluate what role it may play in South Africa's future. It appears to have considerable influence within some black political and labour groups.

Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts





Jordan develops attack vehicle

By Alistair Lyon Renters

AMMAN - A group of bedonins from Jordan's legendary Desert Patrol are resting their camels while they roar across sand and rock in what looks like a stripped-down beach buggy.

The buggy is a lightweight fast attack vehicle designed in Amman at the Jordan Technology Group (JIG), a private firm that is trying to put the country on the world's high-technology map. JIG's chief executive Amin

Badreddin says the vehicle was partly inspired by victories scored by Chadian soldiers using Toyota pickups against Libyan tanks in the North African desert.

"The fast attack vehicle (FAV) is a cost-effective way of fighting armoured intrusions," he told Reuters. "It's low to the ground, fast, highly manoeuvrable and has a low infra-red signature." In computer simulations the FAV has been "dropped" from heights of up to 20 metres to determine its suitability for parachute drops and its resilience to some of the toughest desert ter-rain in the world.

JIG has now asked the Desert Patrol to put two prototypes through their paces.

Badreddin said the computerdesigned vehicle could be fitted with machine guns, anti-tank mis-siles or anti-aircraft missiles and could also be used for border

The Desert Patrol, the Air Force and the Special Forces have all shown interest in the car,

Applied Engineering, the firm which designed it, is a tenant of JTG, which provides office space, start-up money and other services to young entrepreneurs.

It hopes to start production in June using parts made by local sub-contractors and imported aircooled engines.

JTG, which has a majority stake in the venture, wants to secure a niche for Jordan as a manufacturing base for U.S. arms companies interested in the competitive Middle East market.

"Changes in Eastern Europe and U.S. budget constraints mean U.S. military suppliers have to look beyond the United States and Europe," Badreddin

"The market for conventional arms io this region is still buoyant, so there is scope for them to consider teaming and sub-contracting work in Jordan, where costs are very low particularly after the depreciation of the dinar," he added.

JIG was set up in 1988 with a capital of JD 1.3 million dinars (\$1.9 million) to promote Jordan as an Arab centre for technology transfer and maintenance ser-

It wants to attract firms in the Far East who could use Jordan, which has favourable trade and tariff agreements with the United States and Europe, as a base for

Enjoying close links with Jordan's government and armed forces, JTG has the personal backing of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Other projects backed by JTG range from the manufacture of thermal imaging equipment and maintenance of night-vision goggles to the production of date palms by tissue culture and development of a new concept in computer software.

JTG has acquired land just outside Amman for a science park which it hopes will house profit-making oew veotures matching international technology companies and local entrepreneurs.

Badreddin said the park would have a market intelligence unit as well as a world trade centre office offering access to business data and international market information.

It would also have a government liaison office to help tenant companies pick their way through Jordanian red tape.

Last year JTG entered a joint venture with Schweizer Aircraft Corporation of New York to coproduce Schweizer model 330 helicopters for export to the Middle East and North Africa.

Badreddin said production of the helicopters, originally planned to start in February, has been delayed for at least six months by U.S. certification procedures.

The vecture will draw on under-utilised facilities and manpower of the air force, as will a project that aims to expand a jet engine overhaul facility run by the Royal Jordanian national air-



Hisham Edghaim: Nothing stands in the way of talent

By Nelly Lama

Special to the Jordan Times AMMAN - Walking around the exhibition now held in The Royal Cultural Centre training hall, one sees a miscellany of academic paintings that follow a gradual ascent towards a mature style. One is touched by the geotleness, the fine decorative spirit and the strength found in the works. Little does one expect the young artist to be a quadraplegic who holds the brush in his mouth to

"I was painting since I was very young and I loved it," recounts the artist, Hisham Edghaim. "Ten years ago, a diving accident in Saudi Arabia left me completely disabled. On a trip to the United States, my father was given the book 'Joni', a hiography of an artist who suffered simi-lar injuries and who was writing and drawing with her mouth. I started experimenting right

His talent surfaced once more. Backed by the Aramco Fine Arts Group and exhibiting with them anoually, he finally exhibited at the Kiog Faisal University. Hisham was soon summooed by Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani and awarded a 2-year scholarship to Gothenberg University in Sweden where he tried to coordinate his mouth-to-eye focus io order oot to get dazed from the closeness of the paper. Once he could handle that, he started to learn colour mixing and painting. In due time. he carned a membership in the Mouth and Foot Painters' Societ in Liechtenstein and claims 252 members. From the works of these paraplegic artists, the society prints greeting cards and calenders in which Hisham's works appear. He also receives a small income from them.

"It was not easy to become a member," he explains. "One had to show his work, to sit for exams and to be accepted. I am probably the youngest member."

Having acquired Swedish citizenship, Hisham now lives in that country in an apartment that is custom-made for him: movable sinks, tables etc. "Wheo they were huilding the apartment, they came to me to see how they coold fit everything to my needs," Hisham explains. "Now I

can almost manage on my own. From the generous spirit of the Swedes, Hisham learned that it was now his turn to contribute. "I

want to help the handicapped in Jordan. I met with the kids at the Al Hussein Society for the Physically Handicapped. I painted in front of them and they were speech-less. I was almost in tears seeing how I created new hopes for them. When I go back to Sweden, I shall try to send them more equipment to fulfill their needs."

As for Hisham's exhibition here in Jordan, it includes studies of international masterworks. His Chinese style paintings are studies of spatial relationships with fish swimming in water and plants hanging down decoratively while much of the space is left open creating a sense of lightness.

He also paints sensitive landscapes, creates dramatic light effects, and adds beautiful cloud formatioos. The landscape is often stylised into intensely contrasted spaces, or into gradual but sobtle tonalities.

This gradual progression of tones reappears to the plomage of his 'Birds'. He paints the gentle sparrow rendered in detail of texture and colour. For the sky and grass he uses wet brushstrokes and open space. The birds



stand oo harbed wire, the only solid mass in the painting. But the undulations of the wires and their shades relieve the horizontal line so that it does not cut through but blends beautifully with the picture. He juxtaposes an exotic parakeet oo a background filled with pine branches creating fine linear patterns behind the bright solid mass of the parakeet. He also paints the falcoo that is so dear to Gulf Arabs, among whom he lived most of his life.

He paiots a self-portrait where his features are veiled by the wet texture yet are clearly recognisable. It is a double portrait set against diagonal space that expresses his inner psychology. In another self portrait in profile. With a brush in his mouth, all volumes and brushstrokes seem to pull one's eye down towards the painbrush, now his raison-

He paints his own version of the works of the masters. He repaints a portrait of Swedish Queen Victoria with light playing in the intricacies of the folds of her dress. He then applies the same effect to a portrait of his grandmother which has simpler forms but the same chiaroscuro that almost disects her figure.

We find a good rendering of light and volume in his still life paintings, but his best volumes, although lo foreshortened form, appear in his pencil drawings of Michelangelo's sculptures. The heavy volumes of Mary's bending face in the Roman "Pietà" and the folds of her veil, drawn in foreshortened perspective, allow an open space below them. While the head and torso of "Dawn" from the tomh of Lorenzo de Medici in Florence are compressed in space, accentuating the strength of the volomes, Dawn's head pulls the whole composition back in a tense contraposto that creates oew depth and dimension with the format. Hisham is tantalised with the strong almost 'male' musculature that Michelangelo gives his women. Hisham's great ootput ought to

serve as a good lesson to other artists. His courage and determination should push them to work harder. It should also be an incentive to the handicapped, whether physically or emotionally, to pick up their tools and start. The exhibition will go on until

the 25th of March in the training of the Royal Cultural Ceoter.

The Couple

LAST WEEK two questions poped up in my mind, and I still couldn't find an answer to either of them. The first question is how can the deputies manage to be present everywhere and under the dom at the same time. The second one is how can the prime minister and his ministers find the time to run the state's affairs and meet the growing demands of 80 deputies representing 3.4 million people in eight

The work of the executive and legislative branches should be spoused to the benefit of society and towards the wellbeing of constituencies. And this new "marital" arrangement between the two bodies, necessitates that "the couple" meet frequently to arrive at a common ground and mutual understanding. The meetings per se are healthy and quite wanted but the venue, length and cause of the get together remain questionable.

The situation, however, is different as many deputies, often flanked by active citizens, would make a sudden appearance at a minister's door for an immediate meeting. The people's representatives who do not always take appointments in advance as the issues they raise are almost

always classified under "top priority" may cause nuissance to the officials' secretaries who already have tight schedules

Corner_

Randa Habib's

The other day, I was told that a high ranking official met 15 deputies in a row and many of them presented aimost

The same official meets an average of eight to nine deputies a day. This sounds as a reflection of a deep relationship. That is great. But what about some sort of arrangement wherein deputies air their views and present their cases either under the dom or on the fringes of Parliament sessions during meetings with concerned ministers. The rest of the week, both the ministers and deputies can go about handling their respective affairs.

After all, excessive encounters can always be counterproductive and the most intimate relationships are likely to pass through the ups and downs if they are not bound by set rules. We hate to think of a potential "divorce" between the two parents that run the Jordanian family at a time the country is in need of efforts of all parties.

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Kuwait banks may drop 'dinar cartel'

ABU DHABI (R) - Kuwait's major banks may decide to drop their dinar dealing cartel due to an increasing amount of corporate business being done outside the country because of it, Gulf bankers said Wednesday.

The central bank did not impose the cartel on the banks but if they do drop the scheme, it could be a sign of a significant shift in central bank policy, the bankers, in Abu Dhabi for an Arab Monetary Fund meeting, said.

The cartel basically sets minimum selling and buying rates based on the central bank's daily fixed rates against the dollar.

At the heart of the issue is the ever increasing lake of dinar funds, generated by Kuwait's oil wealth, which cannot find a home

EAST BERLIN (Agencies) — West German Chancellor Helmut

Kohl, campaigning in East Ger-

many for speedy unification, has

assured people in the economical-

ly weak country that their savings

will be converted one-to-one into

Kohl's promise Tuesday night

appeared timed to rally support

for a conservative three-party

alliance competing in East Ger-

The alliance is supported by

Kohl's Christian Democratic Un-

Communist Party, which is cam-

paigning on the idea that East

Germany's social safety net and

full employment are endangered

by a hastly takeover by West

Kohl's government is pushing

for merging the East German

mark with its West German coun-

terpart, one of the world's

Among the thorniest issues in

the proposed monetary union,

which would be a prerequisite for

full unity, is how to treat East

East German citizens current-

German capitalists.

strengest currencies.

German savings.

ion in Bonn. It faces the revamped-

many's free elections Sunday.

West German marks.

Over the past few years, the authorities have sought to staunch the outflow of funds. especially at times when it threatened to become a flood.

Banks in Bahrain which can offer better terms to dinar customers have been one of the beneficiaries of new Kuwait business, the bankers raid.

"Kuwait continues 10 be a major capital exporter and there will not be enough alternative opportunities in Kuwait for a long time," said a Bahrain-based Arab

"The regulations put on bank dinar business have led to a new importance for the non-banking sector as a major recycler of Kuwaiti liquidity," he said.

The best efforts of the central

at a Western bank, a 6-1 ratio

reflecting the relative weakness

of the East German economy.

Kohl's assurance echoed simi-

In his speech at a campaign

appearance in Cottbus, East Ger-

many, be also reiterated a call for

speedy movement toward unity

under article 23 of the West

German constitution. The clause

states to decide to join West

"Economy still strong"

West Germany is set to continue

last year's robust growth, which

will help it deal with the changes

in East Germany and the rest of

Eastern Europe, Economics

Minister Helmut Hanssmann said

He said there were signs the

West German economy,

Enrope's biggest, was growing

strongly this year after expanding

armed to tackle the challenges.

This meant Bonn was also well

by four per cent in 1989.

Wednesday in Bonn.

allows individual East German

Germany any time.

lar statements by members of his

German marks for their currency harmonised European Commun-

1980s.

office said.

ity market, he said.

Kohireassures East

Germans on savings

government.

bank, helped by such schemes as rates on deposits, limits on the the commercial bank dinar dealing cartel, cannot escape that fact but they can create an orderly

In 1986, the threat of political instability due to an escalation in the Iran-Iraq war, and a collapse in world oil prices which made Kuwaitis suspect an imminent devaluation to preserve the dinar value of dollar-denominated oil prices, caused a significant increase in capital outflow, Kuwaiti economists said.

The economists believe the authorities and the banks may feel it is time to free the market a bit more now that the two main factors which frightened dinar holders out of their own currency

have disappeared. Regulations include maximum

The Federal Statistics Office

confirmed Wednesday that Gross

National Product (GNP), the

widest measure of economic

growth, expanded by four per

cent last year, a record for the

In the last quarter of 1989 it

rose a provisional one per cent

over the previous quarter, the

Haussmann said mild weather

this winter meant West German

growth in the first quarter of 1990

could be strong, as it was in the

He said last year's fourth quar-

first three months of last year.

ter growth gave convincing proof

of the continued expansion of the

West German economy against a

backdrop of rising employment

Demand within West Germany

and investments in plant machin-

ery showed even more dynamic

growth in the fourth quarter than

previously estimated, Haussmann

cent in the fourth quarter from

the previous quarter, while in-vestments surged four per cent.

expect nuclear power to supply

half the nation's electric energy

of China's electric energy, but

pollution is a growing problem

and inadquate transportation

makes it impossible to meet

Coal now provides 70 per cent

by the year 2050.

Domestic demand grew 2.5 per

and stable prices.

added.

amount Kuwait banks can borrow from the central bank without But local economists, applying evidence of commercial activity

and rules discouraging offshore dinar lending, the bankers said. The banks have been discussing the idea of dropping the year-old cartel for some time, wondering if the guaranteed profit from the fixed spread was not

Management of the dinar by the central bank in Kuwait, the Gulf Arab country with thelongest tradition of developed

losing them more profits by dis-

couraging customs, the bankers

capital markets, has been subtle. In the last resort, the authorities use the obvious interest rate mechanism to control the exwere pushed np above dollar

technical currency analysis, have concluded that the anthorities effectively devalued the dinar after 1986, but without any headline announcements.

The technical analysis detected a breakdown in 1986 in how the dinar rate was being determined against the dollar and concluded that the basket of currencies on which the central bank calculated the dinar rate was changed.

The central bank dinar fix being shown Wednesday was 0.29356/66 to the dollar. In 1986, the average annual rate was 0.29189, the analyst said. The dollar has dropped heavily against other major currencies in

> in ignorance. "We are told, but it's not for sure.

Financial analysts estimate the

"When these international banks do move, I'm sure the bank board will reconsider the posi-

began growing when it acquired a 14.9 per cent stake in Britain's Midland Bank in 1987.

the Hongkong bank's 1981 bid for the Royal Bank of Scotland, but financial analysts speculate the Hong Kong giant plans to try to break into Britain's inner banking circles again through a merger

ment between the two banks expires in December, 1990, but should a merger go through, the tie-up would create the world's 11th to 13th largest bank, bank-

The Honkong bank and Stan-dard Chartered Bank issue the colony's banknotes and take it in turns to head the Hong Kong Association of Banks, which fixes

Hongkong bank posts 11 per cent profit rise

HONG KONG (R) - The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, regarded by bankers as the largest bank in Asia outside Japan, posted an excellent profit for 1989.

Despite economic slowdowns in all the bank's major markets net profits in 1989 rose to 4.77 billion dollars (\$612 million) from 4.3 billion (\$550 million) in 1988. Chairman William Purves told shareholders.

But investors who staved late in the office hoping Purves would reveal one of the British colony's best-kept secrets, the size of the bank's inner reserves, remained

certain, that by 1992 Britain and Europe will be on full disclo-Purves told reporters. "They are not yet on full disclosure. Swiss and German banks have not moved in 1989 and neither have we."

bank's reserves anywhere between 10 billion and 45 billion dollars (\$1.3 billion and \$5.8 bilhon) but all admit they are gues-

tion." Purves said.

Share analysts who estimate the bank's current net asset value at 6.52 dollars (84 U.S. cents) a share, forecast this wotuld surge to 11 dollars (\$1.40) if the secret reserve levels were disclosed, boosting the share price in the

Published reserves currently stand at 38.13 billion dollars (\$4.9) billion) up from 22.83 billion in 1988 (\$2.9 billion).

Purves declared a total dividend of 42 cents (5.4 U.S. cents) versus 36.36 (4.7 U.S. cents) in 1988 and proposed a one-for-10 bonus share issue. Expectations that the bank

would end 125 years of secrecy

The Bank of England rejected with Midland.

The move would require disci osure of reserves.

A three-year standstill agree-

ing sources say.

1 don't believe you can merge two large entities too quickly, Purves said.

the prime rate.

Trading house Jardine Matheson, one of the first to set up shop in Hong Kong after it was col-onised in 1842, established the trend in 1984 by shifting its domicile to Bermuda, but Purves denied the Hongkong bank would follow suit.

change rate. In 1986, dinar rates the meantime. **Banks in Bahrain**

BAHRAIN (R) - Foreign banks in Bahrain who weathered the Gulf recession of the mid-1980s are carving out a new niche for themselves as higher oil prices

the region. Western bankers say that although problem loans and competition from local banks have eroded traditional corporate lending, there is more scope now for specialised finance as new industry projects take off and local banks diversify operations.

Although many banks left Bahrain's offshore banking centre when the heady oil boom days ended, others who stayed have expanded their treasury and cre-dit departments as well as their correspondent and transactional banking services.

"During the boom period, in-ternational banks were filling a void here - there was a tremendous demand for credit services," Zakir Mahmoud, vice president of Bank of America told Reuters.

"Now local banks have become more sophisticated so if you do what you did 10 years ago you're essentially out of business ... but prospects are good for banks who can deliver different products and specialised financing skills," he

Bankers say although major infrastructure projects are now complete, Gulf Arab states are poised to enter a new period of industrial growth as petrochemical, gas and aluminium projects shelved during the recession are

They also anticipate billions of dollars of expenditure on expansion on oil facilities as Arab Gulf states - who control two thirds of the world's known reserves step up their output capacity to meet growing world demand.

"We expect huge investment expenditure in the whole Gulf in terms of its oil industry, petrochemicals, gas and aluminium." Mohammad Al Shroogi, general manager of Citibank Bahrain

carve out new niche

"Foreign banks are positioning themselves for this because they have the expertise to contribute — we see very good opportunities ahead," he told Reuters. generate fresh opportunities in

Dozens of banks bid for a \$560 million 10-year loan for Aluminium Bahrain intended to finance the first part of a billion-dollar expansion. Invitations for a \$373 million

16-year loan for new aircraft for Bahrain-based regional carrier Gulf Air also met strong re-

Saudi Arabia and Qatar will both need finance for new aluminium smelters, while Knwait is planning to spend more than \$2 billion on eight separate petrochemical plants.

"There is a lot of appetite on the part of foreign banks to commit funds for long-term projects," one banker said, "They are more comfortable

with the region's political risk now that the Iran-liaq war has ended and it appears unlikely new hostilities would spill over to the rest of the Gulf," he said. Shroogi said Citibank - one of Bahrain's biggest foreign operators - had added 45 staff in the past three years, bringing its total staff to around 150 compared with a peak of 180 in 1983.

He said business volume in the bank's treasury department had tripled during that time. Foreign bank heads say the

introduction of hedging and risk management products such as forward rate agreements, inoptions in the Gulf over the past three years had fuelled the upturn in treasury activities. Correspondent and trans-

actional banking services have also grown in importance as Gulfbased banks and firms continue to seek ways of boosting efficiency and diversifying their revenue. Bankers say the cost-cutting

and streamlining which took place after oil prices — the barometre of Gulf economies plunged five years ago has improved the area's financial system.

"The market is leaner but a lot more efficient than it was during the boom years," one banker said.

"Firms which survived the crunch have a clear strategy now and the area's financial system is stronger and will be able to support the next 10 years of stable, steady growth," he added.

Foreign investment limit bills flourish in U.S. Congress

WASHINGTON (Agencies) -At last six major legislative proposals currently before Congress would in some way restrict foreign investment in the United States, panelists at a meeting on international investment have

Further restrictions on foreign investment are gaining increasing popular support in the United States, according to the panel of international trade and investment experts, in view of public fears of such recent Japanese direct investments in Colombia Pictures and Rockefeller Centre.

"The fear of foreign investment has reached epidemic proportions," Susan Liebeler, former chairman of the U.S. International Trade Commission, said.

'Armed with innuendo, hyperbole and anecdotal evidence, a burgeoning cottage industry of writers and commentators claim thal foreign investors, particularly Japanese investors, are buying the soul of America."

The panel, part of a meeting on international investment sponsored by the California Department of Commerce, also included Stephen Canner, director of the office of international investment at the U.S. Department of Treasury: Samuel Rosenblatt, president of the Association for International Investment; and George Washington University Professor Sudan Tolchin. Among the legislative propos-

als cited by the panel are: - One that would extend current restrictions on foreign ownership of U.S. broadcast media to

cable properties: - A bill, introduced by Congressman Tom Campbell, that would restrict a country's inveslors in the United States if that country failed to give U.S. investors treatment equal to that provided its domestic investors:

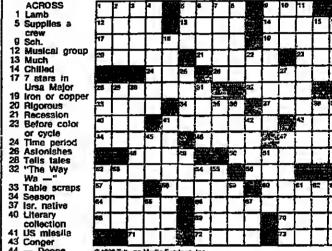
- A proposal, introduced by Senator Donald Riegle, which would permit banking agencies 10 limit future expansion of foriegn-owned banks and bank holding companies and permit dealers by foreign companies.

The restriction would apply where the Secretary of the Treasury has determined that their home countries do not provide the same competitive opportunities to U.S. firms as are available to domestic competitors.

- A bill that would give the Secretary of Transportation broad authority to block certain investments in U.S. airlines where the investment would effect a transfer of control to foreign persons.

12 Musical group 13 Much 14 Chilled 17 7 stars in

THE Daily Crossword by Dorothy B. Martin



Yesterday's Pozzle Solved: 5 Cartographer's

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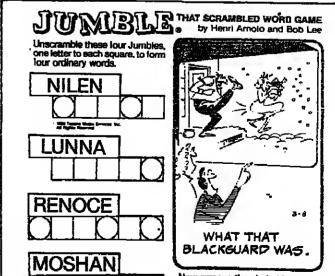
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gested by the above cartoon. WITHOUT #P (Answers tomorrow) Jumbies: PIECE SANDY KINGLY ENCAMP Answer: Their kld's college education seemed to be just this—PIGSKIN DEEP

China already has two nuclear Kong, just 50 kilometres away, ower plants under construction. because of safety concerns, but A 300-megawatt plant at Qin-Huang said proposals for more plants in Guangdong are beding shan, in coastal Zhejiang province, is due to begin operating studied. Chinese officials have said they

after construction began.

Huang would not elaborate on the discussions, but Western

A second plant, the 1,300megawatt Daya Bay nuclear plant in southern Guangdong province. began construction in 1987 and its

China negotiating with Soviet Union for nuclear power plant PEKING (AP) - Caina is nego- news reports have said China 1992 and 1993. The plant has

would barter for the power plant. created a controversy in Hong

east China's Liaoning province, would be the country's third and

tiating with the Soviet Union to

ly would get only about 0.16 West posed by the completion of a

build a 2,000-megawatt nuclear power plant to help meet the country's soaring energy needs, Energy Minister Huang Yicheng said Wednesday. The two-reactor plans, to be by the end of this year, five years located along the coast of north-

two reactors are to go on-line in

LONDON (R) - Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world curreacies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

London Exchange Rates

1.6060/70 One Sterling One U.S. dollar 1.1725/35 1.7123/30 1.9280/90 1.5230/35 35.53/58 5.7835/85 1263/1264 152.10/20 6.1845/95 6.6130/80 6 5590/640 U.S. dollars Canadian dollar Deutschemarks **Dutch** guilders Swiss francs Belgian francs French francs Italian lire Japanese yen Swedish crowns Norwegian crowns

Danisb crowns

U.S. dollars

One ounce of gold 399.00/399.40

TOKYO - Share prices closed broadly easier but off their lows in modest trade after zigzagging up and down for much of the day. The Nikkei Index fell 268.44 to 32,352.13.

World Stock Markets

HONG KONG - Share prices ended easier in healthy turnover, brokers said. The Hang Seng Index fell 6.39 points to 2,881.23. SINGAPORE - The market closed mixed with both the Straits Times Industrial Index and the OTC index falling due to blue chip losses and other index stocks. The Straits Times Index closed 0.37 down at 1,564.81.

BOMBAY - Share prices beat a hasty retreat after a 10 per cent hike in freightrates proposed in the railway budget for fiscal 1990/91 disappointed the market, brokers said.

FRANKFURT — West German shares more than reversed early gains to close slightly lower as news of an East German politician's resignation unsettled the market. The Dax closed down 4.64 at 1862.84.

ZURICE - Shares closed lower but a small raily towards the end helped prices to recover some ground lost earlier in the session.

The SPI Index lost 4.3 to 1,097.0. PARIS - French share prices ended sharply higher after a recovery on French and Germany bond markets injected vigour into a listeless market. The CAC-40 index ended 22.07 points up

LONDON - Shares remained firm in extremely quiet business here after earlier gains established on light technical demand. At 1639 GMT the FISE was 2.2 up at 2,226.7.

NEW YGRK - Share prices, supported by a rise in bonds. remained modesty ahead in late morning trading, but blue chips were below their highs. The Dow Jones industrial average was up

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

392.0 441.1	394.4 443.7	Japanese yen (for 100) Dutch guilder Swedish crown Italian lira (for 100) Bekejan franc (for 101	440.6 348.1 108.4 53.1 189.2	442. 350. 109. 53. 190.
116.0	116.7	Definit name (los 10)	109-4	130.
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growing demand.

Wednesday, March 14, 1990 Central Bank official rates

HOROSCOPE By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a fine morning and evening for you to make a big point if gening all your affairs on a solid and secure structure, of looking directyour advantage. LIBRA: (September 23 to October ly at your material foundation fer 22) A trip with a good friend and

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY MARCH 15, 1990

making any improvements that are needed. ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You are entering a period in which new, interesting acquaintances with come into your life. You and your mate will gain the goodwill of kin

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Benefits will come more regularly. now from the services you routine ly perform. You can talk and work out any family problem with your mate now. GEMIN1: (May 2) to June 21) Join

sures. Being tender and loving with your attachment brings you both much happiness. MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Your happiest social moments now will be with close mem-

with powerful friends and outside

talented persons in social plea-

most charms you at home. LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You would be wise to accept social invitations today at whatever hour from good friends. Look carefully into every facet of your business or

bers Of your own family. Busy yourself with the personal life that socially. More romantic interest

finances now. VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Go with longtime friends today to statisfying places of entertain-ment. A delay in a plan made by you and your mate will work out to

an outside contact could not but to

everyone's benefit. Sudden opportunity for you and your male to go on a jaunt should be taken. SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You can be optimistic now that your activities will have beneficial results. You can resolve any problem now existing with attachment by understanding atti-

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Now you can enjoy social activities at places where good food is served. Your ideas are good for improving the decor at your own residence.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to

January 201 Your happiest social time now will be at entertainments with an interesting couple. A fine day to invite younger persons into your home. AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Cultivate both creative aintances and business friends

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A variety of persons close to you will aid in new ways to be successful. Romantic well-being is fine under your own roof with you

shown by you will make attach-

ment happy.

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day it be most outgoing in expressing your concern for your fellow man and to extend the finest philosophy of life under which you live, to others who can benefit from your example.... ARIES: (March 21 to April 19)

distance can bring you beneficial results. You and your mate can have a happy time visiting friends, neighbours and close kin. TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A real opportunity is now yours to expand your activities in greater depth. A good day to get every-

cuting with friends at a

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Your own ideas for increasing your daily activities now are clever and dynamic. A very good time to intelligently plan the future with your attachment.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to

thing around your home in fine condition.

July 21) Your happiness at some social activities should now continue unabated. Showing more emotional fevor will please your LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Diffi-culties are just behind you, so full speed ahead in usual activities.

bring you more pleasure at recrea-VIRGO: (August 22 m September 22) Pending relations of a social nature with upset friends should be put off until a better moment. Try to put a little more colour and zest into your daily tasks. LIBRA: (September 23 to October

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY MARCH 16, 1990

friendships should be encouraged today. Accept delays and obstacles in the way of seeing close companions and relatives now. SCORPIO: (October 23 in November 21) Private talks with family nembers about adding to home prosperity can be very productive

22) A couple of differently-viewed

on a perfect understanding. SACITTABIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A new approach at bringing more happiness to your attachment can be very successful. ent can be very successful. Friends will be very cooperative so eajoy social activities.

Happiness with mate now depends

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Additions or changes at your home are now indicated as advisable. Keep showering love and affection on your attachment.

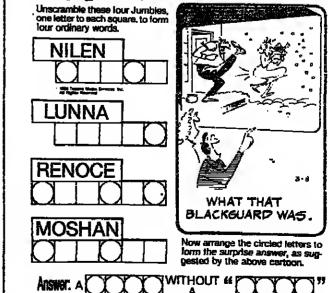
AQUARIUS: (January 21 to Febru-

ary 19) To avoid confusion plan

every aspect of your present duties

very carefully. A great time for you to entertain family and companions and to be happy at bome. PISCES: (February 20 m March Changes in social contacts can 20) The time is not ripe for you to put your creative ideas into your business. This is the time for much ess. This is the time for much activity building your fenses at





Karpov, Timman draw in world chess final

mer World Champion Anatoly Karpov of the Soviet Union and Jan Timman of the Netherlands played to a draw after 38 moves in the fifth game of the world candidates chess final Wednes-

Both players repeated the opening moves from the first game, which Timman lost in just 36 moves. Timman's willingness to repeat the opening in today's game led to speculation that he and his team of seconds had found an improvement for white.

On his 18th move, Timman vaired from the first game, play ing 18 RAE3 instead of 18 NH4. Karpov seemed to have expected this as he played 18 A4, countering Timman's plan of B3 and

Timman showed better preparation in the opening when on his

capture causing Karpov to sink into deep thought before recapturing with his own pawn. This allowed Timman to build up a strong attacking position with the advance of his king pawn to E5.

By move 23, the grandmasters gathered in the press room felt that white held the advantage.

But Karpov showed great defensive skill by exchanging his bishop for a knight to take the edge off white's attack. Karpov manouvered his knight to a strong post in the centre, suddenly blunting white's attack.

After move 30 RXE5 white's attacking chances were clearly greatly reduced, whereas Karpov's pieces were dangerously placed in the centre, threatening Timman's king. Timman's defence was to put his king on F1 and sacrifice another pawn. When Timman played 35 BA2, Karpov overlooked the possibility of exchanging queens for an ending in which he has two extra pawns with the move 35... QD3 with Timman unable to play 36 KXE1 due to 36... NC2, 37 KF2 QE3, 38 KF1 QE1 mate. Instead, Karpov played 35 ND3 allowing perpetual check by Timman's

In the press room, the grand-masters who were already analysing the ending after the exchange of queens, were stranged when queens, were stunned when news of the draw rached them.

Karpov leads the 12-game match with 2.5 points to Timman's 1.5 with one game adjourned. One point is awarded for a win and 0.5 point for a draw with the winner the player to reach 6.5 points first.

Greek soccer marred by corruption allegations

ATHENS (AP) — The Greek soccer world was rocked Tuesday by a newspaper's claim that First-

Division soccer games were being rigged with the help of referees. The scandal came one day after the owner of a leading team was suspended for assaulting a television cameraman.

The Greek National Football Federation requested a judicial inquiry into the allegations published Tuesday that a journalist and three referees were involved in rigging games.
It added that it was sending a

delegation to consult with the Federation of International Football Association, or FIFA, in Zurich Friday.

The actions came after the newspaper Eleftherotypia published what it said was confidential letter sent to FIFA by referee Costas Dimitriades Feb. 22. It did

not say how it obtained the letter. Dimitriades was quoted as telling the international body that a journalist bribed referees to "alter the results of games."

The letter named the people allegedly involved and referred to specific instance this sea-

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH

East-West vulnerable. East deals.

♦ QJ9864 ★ 105

EAST

Q7

± K 10 9 8 7 5 ♥ 8 6 4

NORTH

7 K 5 3

SOUTH

The bidding:

East South West
Pass 1 + Pass
1 + 2 NT Pass

♠ A Q ♥ Q 10 9 2

♦ A Z ♦ A K 6 3 2

Opening lead: Six of
Necessity is the mother of inven-

tion. South's play of three no trump

was forced upon him by the opening

ble with South's decision to rebid two no trump with two doubletons.

However, one was in his partner's

suit and the other was a double stop-

per in the overcaller's suit, so we

RAIDERS OF

THE LOST

ARK

There are those who might quib-

WEST

son — including games involving top team Olympiakos of Piracus, Ack of Athens and Paok of Salo-

Dimitriades issued a statement later Tuesday claiming that the photocopied letter presented by Eleftherotypia was a forgery.

Eleftherotypia, however, stood by its report. A statement by the management said that the letter was genuine and that FIFA was fully aware of the charges.

Eleftherotypia claimed a week ago, before presenting Dimit-riades' letter, that FIFA was investigating charges of corruption in the soccer league. The Greek union of soccer club

owners, known as the association of professional football clubs, decided Monday to sue Eleftherotypia reporter Filippos Syrigos for making the allegations.

In a statement to chief prosecutor Avaraam Stathopoulos Tuesday, however, the association acknowledged that some games may have been rigged, court

Meanwhile, Olympiakos, currently second in the First Division, began looking for a tempor-

Unfortunately for South, East's overcall resulted in the one lead to

cause a major headache — with any

lead other than a spade, declarer

could have set up dummy's dia-monds and would then have had

only to find the ace of hearts with

West to coast home. Now that play

would not work, because the de-

fenders could score at least three

spade tricks (four on the actual dis-tribution) and a trick in each red

suit.
Declarer, Ed Netter of Green-

wich, Conn., worked out an alterna-

tive plan that involved collecting

two spade tricks, three hearts, two

diamonds and two clubs. After win-

ning the queen of spades, he led the queen of hearts. West could do no better than take his ace and knock out declarer's remaining spade stop-

per, but the cards lay well for

After winning the ace of spades,

declarer ran the ten of hearts. When

a heart to the king fetched the jack,

declarer needed just one more slice of luck to land his game. He led the

queen of diamonds and, when East

turned out to have the king, all was well. The nine tricks were in the bag.

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ary chairman after owner Argyris Saliarelis was suspended for three months and barred from attend-

Saliarelis was found guilty by a sports court Monday of assaulting a television cameraman during a break in a game between Olympiakos and league-leaders Panathinaikos Feb. 25.

Television viewers saw Saliarelis striking Socrates Zappas, a cameraman for the state television ET-1, during a break in the game. At the time, Zappas was trying to film Panathinaikos' goalkeeper, who had been felled by a stone thrown by an Olympiakos fan.

Judge Christos Paleocostas said that Saliarelis' actions "brought the sport of soccer into disrepu-

Olympiakos defender Theodoros Pahatourides was suspended for 40 days for pushing a linesman during the same game, and fan Thanassis Dedes was banned from attending games for a year. Dedes was found guilty of assaulting both the cameraman and the "linesman during the break in the game....

STOWE, Vermont (AP) — When she was 17 and skiing on the U.S. development team,

Anouk Patty was faced with the

decision of a lifetime — go to

college or continue the pursuit of

Patty chose education, but she

thinks the U.S. ski programme

should not push promising young skiers to a fork in the road at such

"The way the system is now,

it's almost impossible to go to

school" and still compete at the

top level, she said after finishing

third in the giant slalom at the

National Collegiate Athletic

Association Championships.

"When you're 15 or 16, college is the last thing you want to hear.

The thing you want is the travel

For Alpine skiers and some

parents with their eyes on inter-

national championship skiing or

the prestigious world cup, or even

a dream.

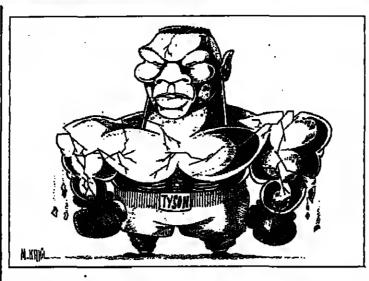
an early age.

all over Europe."

Wednesday

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Tyson goes back to the basics

NEW YORK (R) — It's crunch time for Mike Tyson — and he is planning drastic action.

The former heavyweight champion, knocked out by James buster" Douglas last month, will return to the gym soon to work on an "excruciating" 90-minute exercise which he has not done in years, co-trainer Jay Bright said. Bright, in a telephone interview from his home in upstate New York, said he and Tyson had held several long conversations about his loss to Douglas by a 10th round knockout in Tokyo

"We're going to get a Willie," said Bright, referring to a type of punching bag with numbers on it which is mounted on a wall.

It teaches certain punchcombinations, hecause "one punch causes a fighter (an opponent) to do something, which sets up other punches," Bright said.

The Willie with its numbered punch combinations is a system devised by Tyson's late trainer Cus D'Amato. Bright, who worked with D'Amato, is often heard during fights shouting number combinations to Tyson. Apart from knocking Douglas down with one punch in the

eighth round, Tyson showed little skill or power in the fight. Bright said the drill with the Willie bag was "a 90-minute drill (with breathers) used for speed, power and coordination. It's an excruciating thing, but this is my

The implication was that Tyson's loss made him realise he must get back to basics. Bright would not go into detail about his talks with Tyson, other

the Olympics, training is con-

There is a lot of money in-

vested by parents at an early age

to see their kinds compete on an

international level, said Pat Mil-

ler, the coach at the University of

Utah, which won six NCAA

Alpine skiers do not have the

support of a system that uses

college as a training ground, as do professional football, baseball,

College takes too much time

and concentration for a skier with

Chip Lacasse, the coach of NCAA defending champion Ver-

mont, said that five years ago if an

Alpine skier went to college, his

or her career was over. He is

trying to change that.
"The relationship between col-leges and the U.S. ski team is

really improving," he said. He is

part of a special committee work-

Tel: 634144

championships in the 1980s.

basketball and hockey.

world class ambitions.

tinuous.

Young skiers face tough choices

opportunity to get him to work on

than to say that "as a champion you can't allow yourself to be content. If you're content you

lose your desire. Referring to Tyson's dismal performance against Douglas, Bright said: "There were distractions... it's a difficult thing. Michael and me were both taught by a very, very wise man (Cus D'Amato). At times it's hard to retain that wisdom.

"This time he's going to retain Bright was unimpressed with

Douglas's skills, comparing him to a Volkswagen racing against a Lamborghini.

"Douglas is a very ordinary fighter," Bright said. "He was like a Volkswagen in fifth gear and Michael never got out of first

Bright said he would like Tyson to fight Douglas again in September but that a "lot of litigation has to be resolved first."

Douglas has filed a lawsuit trying to get out of a contract with Don King, who says he has the right to promote Douglas's next

King in turn filed a lawsuit to hold Douglas to the contract, and billionaire real estate magnate Donald Trump is suing to make sure his Atlantic City Casino does not lose the next Tyson fight to Las Vegas.

When Tyson did fight again, Bright said be wanted the former scourge of the heavyweight division "to incite his enthusiasm and fan the fire of his desire.

"I want him to go in there absolutely dead calm, to get his. belts back and get revenge for what happened in Tokyo."

ing with the two bodies and focus-

ing on getting the national team'

not to discourage promising

youngsters from going to college.
But even he acknowledges that

Olympic and world cup prospects

are skiing at a still higher level,

which leaves "very little room to

a good education and good train-

ing, and if you're good enough, you can be brought onto the U.S.

Patty's coach at Dartmouth,

Ruff Patterson, a college skier who has coached for the U.S.

team and in three Olympics, said

he thinks many skiers who gave

up an education to pursue the

dream, and didn't achieve it.

But he said a change to com-

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pete in the World Cup with its

increasing prestige and financial reward is a definite reason to

make the effort.

"look back with bitterness."

"My feeling now is you can get

attend school."

ski team." he said.

Merle wins last slalom race of the season

KLOVSJO, Sweden (AP) --Carole Merle of France won the last women's World Cup Giant Slalom of the season Wednesday, beating Norwegian lunior Julie Hansen by 35 bundredths of a second.

Merle won her fourth consectvie world race in a combined time of 2 minutes, 13.04 seconds.

Hansen, a 17-year-old skiing in only her third cup competition, rallied from 10th to second after clocking the fastest time in the second run.

"It feels just great," grinned Hansen after one of the biggest surprises of the season. "I didn't make a mistake in the second

Hansen had a two-run total of 2:13.39. Third went to Mateja

Rose wants

Hall of Fame

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - Former

Cincinnati Reds manager Pete

Rose, facing his first season out of

baseball since 1963, says he is in no harry to apply for reinstatement,

but is anxious to get into the Hall

really not interested in going back down on the field, I'm anticipating

the Hall of Fame. You don't need

to be reinstated to go to the Hall of Fame," Rose said Tuesday during

While he isn't worried about his

own status. Rose said be doesn't

want his suspension to mar the possible Hall of Fame election of

former Reds teammate Tom Sea-

"I don't want to put any kind of cloud over the Hall of Fame induc-tion to Tom Seaver, who's eligible the same year I am. That would be

another reason to try to be rein-

Rose and Seaver, both of whom

last played in 1986, would be eligible for election after the 1991

Rose baseball's career hit lead-

er, was banned for life from base-

ball last Aug. 24 for illegal gamb-ling, but will be eligible to apply

"I don't understand why August

would be a good time to apply for

reinstatement because what's

available for an ex-baseball player

in August?" Rose said. "The only job that would be available would

be a team that's 35 games out of

"For guys who are first or second, it's a pretty easy deci-

sion," he said. "If you're in a gray

area, you're always faced with a

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difficult decision."

"As I stand here right now, I'm

to get into

Svet of Yugoslavia in 2:13.71. Defending overall champion Vreni Schneider of Switzerland, after missing gates in her last two sialom races, came back to finish fourth in 2:13.90.

Merle, 26, from Super Sauze in the southern French Alps, has been impressive in her last six

pair of downhills early last month at Veysonnaz, Switzerland, then captured two straight super G races at Meribel, France.

She was runnerup twice in a

Last Saturday, she made it three wins in a row by winning the GS at Stranda. Merle, who injured her knee

last August in Las Lenas, Argentina, didn't make her comeback until late January. She moved to

sixth in the world cup overall standings with 177 points.

Petra Kronberger, trying to become Austria's first overall champion since Annemarie Moser-Proell in 1979, leads the standings with 326 points. She was ninth Wednesday.

Teammate Anita Wachter placed seventh and now has 294. cutting Kronberger's lead by two points. Only three races remain, super G, a downhill and a slalom, at Are, Sweden, later this

Wachter has already clinched the season's GS championship. Svet came sedond and Kronberger third in the final standings.

The race marked the GS farewell for Swiss allround star Maria Walliser, who's retiring after her 10th world cup season.

'Buster' says he won't fight till September

WASHINGTON (AP) — Heavyweight Champion James "Buster" Douglas said Tuesday that he will not defend his title before September, regardless of whether the courts allow him to fight Evander Holyfield or force him into a rematch with Mike Tyson.

"I want to fight in September," Douglas said. "Until then I have a lot of things that I have to do, a lot of things on the agenda. Douglas, who earned the title

last month with a shocking 10thround knockout of the previously unbeaten Tyson, said his next

opponent would be determined hy his pending court battle against promoter Don King. "Right now everything's up in the air as to who I'll be fighting," he said. "It depends on what happens in court, and I believe it will be (decided) in my favour. I'd like to give Holyfield the first

shot at my title." Regardless of what happens in court, Douglas' manager, John Johnson Jr., said his fighter will never deal with King, who insists that a rematch with Tyson must be next on Douglas' fight sche-

Johnson sued by agent

TORONTO (R) — Disgraced has not been disclosed. sprinter Ben Johnson has been sued for breanch of contract and damages of \$425,000 by his Canadian agent.

Toronto-based Communique Ltd negotiated Canadian contracts for Johnnson, who was stripped of the gold medal he won in the 100 metres at the Seoul Olympics for taking banned steroids.

U.S. companies Heritage Sports, Heritage Group Inc and diversified Equities Ltd., which hold the runner's worldwide rights, are also being sued.

Communique has also asked a Canadian court to freeze the runner's trust fund which is held by the Canadian Track and Field Association. The size of that fund

"There was money owed from

these contracts and we feel we are entitled to our fee. Had he continued to compete and not been stripped of his medals we would have received fees," Glen Calkins, Communique vice-president said Tuesday.

"We've been around the block few times and have not been able to settle with his lawyers. It is regrettable and we hoped it would never come to this but we are looking to resolve this and get on with things," Calkins said.

Communique says it has paid Johnson for a promotional film" which they feel is no longer sale-

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Actor seeks funds

WASHINGTON (R) - The star

of the television series "Starsky

and Hutch" pleaded with Con-

gress Tuesday to help find a cure

for AIDS, which killed his seven-

year-old daughter and threatens

to kill his wife and son. Actor

Paul Michael Glaser, and his

wife, Elizabeth, who received the

acquired immune deficiency syn-

drome (AIDS) virus in 1981 from

a contaminated blood transfesion

she was given during the birth of

her dauther Ariel, pleaded for

more federal funding for research

into the killer disease. The actor's

wife said in emotional testmoory

before the House of Representa-

nves Budget Committee hearing:

"If we don't commit now, my son

and so many others will be casual-

ties in a war that we could have

won if only we had tried harder

and moved faster." She unknowingly gave the AIDS virus to

Ariel and her son Jacob, born

three years later, through breast-

feeding. Ariel died in 1988. Eli-

zabeth and Jacob have not been

diagnosed with AIDS, but are

being checked regularly. Gtaser

said of his son: "He has a chance

the battle against AIDS there is

bope. But it's up to others to

SANTO DOMINGO, Domini-

can Republic (AP) — Former

Hairian dictator Jean Claude

"Baby Boc" Duvalier and his wife Michelle Bennett obtained a

divorce in Dominican Republic

last year, her lawyer said. The

couple, who fied Haiti to exile in France in 1986 after being forced

out of power following mass de-

monstrations, were granted a Di-

vorce on Oct. 24, 1989 in the

tourist town of Samana, 300

kilometres from the Dominican

capital of Santo Domingo, Attor-

ney Luz Duquela Morales, who

represented Mrs. Duvalier, said

the decision to divorce was "mutual." Judge Baez Barbs

granted custody of the coupie's

two children, Nicolas and Anya,

to Michelle Bennett and Duvalier

agreed to pay his ex-wife the

equivalent of \$3,000 in monthly

child support and \$4,500 is

monthly alimony. Duvalier, the

39-year-old son of Francois

sented by Dominican attorney

Mauel Ramon Moriel Cerda.

News of the divorce was reported

in the Dominican daily Ultima

Hora. Both lawyers said neither

duvalier or his wife were present

for the divorce under a special

law for foreigners in the Domini-

can Republic, which shares the

island of Hispaniola with Harti.

The lawyers said the coupic will

"Papa Doc" Duvalier, was repre-

decide to give it to him."

Duvalier, wife

divorce

bis sister didn't have, because in

for AIDS cure

Ortega: Sandinistas will never topple Chamorro

country. We won't do what the

rightist extremists did in the past

__ sabotage our efforts to secure

Ortega holds that the U.S.

biggest consumer market in the

A spokesman for the United

National Opposition (UNO), a

coalitinn of opposition parties,

said the Bush administration's

vote of confidence will carry a lot

of weight in the international

"One of the most important

might increase their aid," said

UNO spokesman Danilo Lacayo.

world: the United States."

economic aid.'

SANTIAGO (Agencies) — Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said his leftist Sandinista army will never stage a coup against his democratically-elected successor, Violeta Chamorro.

"The government that is going to take office on April 25 can be completely sure, more than many Latin American administrations. that there will never, ever be a military coup in Nicaragua." where he took part in celebra-

pled Dictator Anastasio Somoza

in affice if you don't bave the people's support?" Ortega said. dent Bush lifted economic sanctions imposed against Nicaragua approve a \$300 million aid package tn foster democracy in that

who rules Nicaragua, everyone must seek economic aid for the

HAVANA (R) — Cuhan Presi-

dent Fidel Castro said Tuesday he

would not listen to advice from

other warld leaders to be a "good

boy" and make political conces-

sions in his 31-year-old Commun-

of students in Havana that be

would attend the inauguration in

Brazil Thursday of President-

elect Fernando Collor de Mello.

where he would meet heads of

state from Latin America and

"There won't be any shortage

of advice for me, I know what it

will be in advance. I know it by

The Cuhan leader added that

be expected some other leaders

to tell him that he should "behave

himself, be a good boy, make

sions?" he asked the crowd,

'Should we make conces-

elsewhere.

heart." he said.

concessions."

Castro told a rally of thousands

Contra rebels can be disbanded by the April 25 inauguration of

Ellioit Richardson, U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar's special representa-tive on the Nicaraguan election process, said a developing U.N.sponsored plan to disarm and eventually resettle the U.S.backed contras will guarantee their security.

ed confidence Tuesday that the

think that practical safeguards for their demolisation can be provided," he told a news

conference. The contras have said they will remain armed to make sure the Sandinisia government led by outgning President Daniel Ortega hands over power of the army and the police forces as well as the presidency on April 25. But Richardson said he be-

lieves "the prospects are good" that the contras will be disbanded before the formal transfer of

power in Nicaragua.

He said the incoming and outgoing Nicaraguan governments, as well as the United States, are willing to work together to ensure that the contras "can safely de-mobilise and re-enter the society of Nicaragua, or for that matter if they choose to, stay outside of

Nicaragua. Richardson said he could not

seeks

torce

Namibia

aspects is that other countries provide specifics on the plan because "it would be inappropriate to try to fill in details on a matter that is in fact actively being pursued now.

tn hold the reins of power during the electoral period, which will U.N. chief take the country in the shortest possible time towards an elected government," she said. She is to govern together with a 19-member civilian council of to extend state until elections are held and

Haiti's new

prepares

country for

democracy

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) -

Haiti's first woman president is

hurrying to prepare her country

for democracy amid fears that

paramilitary remnants of the old

Duvalier regimes could try to

Snpreme Court Justice Hertha

Trouillot, 43, was sworn in as

provisional president Tuesday in

an unprecedented handover from

a military to a civilian govern-

ment in the poor Caribbean na-

Trouillot, Haiti's first and only

woman supreme court justice, was chosen by the coalition of

opposition groups that helped

force the resignation last Satur-

day of former military President

General Prosper Avril. More

than 20 people died in protests against Avril which broke out last

Accepting her post in the name of Haiti's women, Trouillot said her task would be to run the

government only until elections were held in the shortest possible

chosen to guide, for the moment, the destiny of the nation. I have

accepted this beavy task in the

name of the Haitian woman," she

"My most fundamental task is

"My modest person has been

Thursday.

said. -

derail her mission.

leader

But many political leaders said the democratic process was still fragile and in danger of being derailed by paramilitary supporters of the previous regime.

then turn power over to the win-

Known as Tontons Macoutes, the paramilitary forces are remnants of the feared private police force used by former dictator Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier and his son Jean-Claude to repress opponents.

"Elections could be held in three to six months... but only once security has been restored, said Louis Roy, a member of the new Council of State. Members of the new council

and political leaders opposed to the old regime said they were favourably impressed with army chief Major General Herard Abraham, who turned power over to Trouillot and promised that the armed forces would support her. "I was particularly encouraged

by the speech and general attitude of General Abraham and the army." said Marc Bazin, who heads a three-party centrist alliance and is a leading presidential candidate. "I think we have never seen in

this country such a situation. If things continue on this line, it will mean a new era is opening up in this country," he told reporters. After Jean-Claude Duvalier

was ousted in 1986, ending 29 years of the family dynasty, the Tontons Macontes were disbanded as an official force. But their presence is still felt, anti-Duvalier politicians said.

"It is absolutely necessary to bring the Duvalierist thugs under control if we are to work," said council member Venel Remarais, who added it was up to the army to locate and disarm paramilitary

U.S. military sees vanishing threat of sudden attack in Europe

WASHINGTON (Agencies) -A new military assessment of the Soviet threat in Europe shows that the West could be confident of having months of warning of a Soviet conventional forces attack, according to a new U.S. assess-

Describing the 1990-joint military net assessment to the House of Representatives Armed Services Committee, a senior Defence Department officer said that changes under way in the European military landscape meant that a Soviet attack was

If such an anack did occur, he said, NATO would have adequate time to respond.

Committee Chairman Les

Sanctions

are futile,

S. African

aide says

Wednesday.

CAPE TOWN (R) - Sanctions

did not change South Africa in

the past and will not influence

talks with the black majority in

the future, South African Finance

Minister Barend Du Plessis said

Presenting the national budget to parliament, he acknowledged

financial sanctions bad slowed

domestic economic growth, but said they bad not influenced re-

cent sweeping political reforms introduced by President F.W. de

"The far-reaching steps taken by (De Klerk) since his assump-

tion of office spring directly from

carefully considered initiatives

and timing and have nothing to

do with sanctions," Du Plessis

"The government's commit-

ment to reform and its pursuit of

a higher growth pattern despite

sanctions, underline both the fol-

ly of continuing foreign interfer-

ence... and the futility of trying to

inject the lifting of these sanc-

tions as a factor in the negotiating

Du Plessis' comments, in a preamble to his main budget

speech, followed repeated calls

by black nationalist leader Nelson

Mandela for the international

community to intensify sanctions

against Pretoria, at least until the

government starts power-sharing

negotiations with the black

process."

majority.

Aspin later said Tuesday the new perception of the military situation was making it clear that the Bush administration's \$306.9 billion defence budget "is clearly

"The general problem we face is that the defence budget was put together in a different era," Aspin said, referring to the recent dramatic changes in East Europe.

Testifying on the new assessment of the military joint chiefs of staff, Major General John Robinson, who led the review. said the attack warning time might have increased by a "factor of four or five."

Classified figures reported earlier gave a warning time as low as 14 days. This estimate was reported to bave been increased to about a month last September when U.S. intelligence reassessed the Warsaw Pact's military capa-

Robinson also said that an agreement on limiting conventional forces in Europe, expected to be signed this year, would push up the warning time estimate even further.

Declining to go into specific

figures at a public hearing. Robinson said that under current conditions the warning time would be greatly increased and NATO would have adequate time to respond to an attack.

Aspin later told reporters that the defence hudget, unlike the military assessment, did not take into account September's intelligence estimates of Soviet unlateral force reductions and a conventional forces agreement.

Taking issue with Defence Secretary Dick Cheney's cautious line, Aspin said be believed Congress could prudently cut the defence budget even before conventinnal forces and strategic arms reduction agreements were

In bis testimony Robinson said

the Soviet Union's restructured military would still be formidable and NATO needed to maintain a flexible response

Centrist wins Grenada vote 1970s. He was ousted by leftists ST. GEORGE'S (R) - The civil

servant who led a caretaker government after U.S. troops toppled a marxist regime in Grenada in 1983 bas won elections on a programme stressing tourist development.
Nicholas Brathwaite's centrist

National Democratic Congress won seven of the 15 parliament seats at stake Tuesday. We appeared headed for a coalition with the formerly ruling

National Party, whose only winning candidate was Prime Minister Ben Jones.

The election result in the poor Caribbean island state was a rebuff to eccentric 68-year-old for mer Prime Minister Sir Eric Gairy, who ruled Grenada in the 11 years ago while visiting the United Nations to ask for an investigation into unidentified flying objects (UFOS). Brathwaite, 64. a career civil

servant in education, was chosen as interim head of government following the U.S. action to end the island's Marxist regime,

Leftist Maurice Bishop took power in the 1979 coup against Gairy and was toppled and killed four years later by hardliners in his own party, who were ousted by the U.S. invasion.

Grenada's surviving leftist party has little political clout, failing to win one seat in the 15-member

Bonn seeks control of Nazi archives from U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — West Germany is pressing the United States to turn over hundreds of thousands of original Nazi documents, agitating scholars and prosecutors who fear the papers may be lost to them forever.

A delegation from Bonn was in Washington March 1 and 2 to discussing the transfer of the Berin Documents Centre to West German control, officials said. The centre is located in the American sector of Berlin and run hy the U.S. State Depart-

"We would be happier if the U.S. government tells us we can have them (the documents) in the foreseeable future," said German emhassy spokesman Hanning Horstmann in Washington. "It is a part of German history."

in principle to hand over the

centre to the Germans but only

once the original documents have

all been copied on microfilm, said

a State Department official who

spoke on condition of anonymity.

years ago, could be completed by

1994, the official said. But the

West Germans would like to be

given the archives much sooner

than that, said another official,

who also asked not to be named.

That process, begun several

Du Plessis said one of the West Germany's parliament, the Bundestag, passed a resolu-tion last year calling for the censpinoff benefits of sanctions was that they had forced the governtre to be turned over. ment to focus on economic effi-The centre, a symbol of Gerciencies and structural changes in

many'a Nazi past and of the allied the economy in an effort to boost the flagging growth rate. control of Bertin, houses original membership cards in the Nazi "...The view is gaining ground that the crunch of sanctions bas' party and personnel files on members of 'Adolf Hitler's SS compelled us to push through certain structural adjustments storm troopers. more rapidly than would other-The United States bas agreed

wise have occurred," be said. The minister said Wednesday's budget would be aimed at further economic restructuring to raise bying standards of all races and to rekindle growth.

"High priority will have to be given to the pressing questions of poverty, housing backlogs, inadequate education... and a host of other problems blocking the road to participation in the economy and to progress," Du Plesbeen used extensively to prepare prosecution cases against suspected Nazi criminals in West Germany and elsewhere in the world. It also serves thousands of

scholars of the Nazi era. The U.S. Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations (OSI), which constantly uses the centre to prepare cases against suspected Nazis, is opposed to turning over the documents, sonrces said.

The OSI cannot rely on the microfilmed documents because it often needs the original documents to authenticate copies in court, said the sources who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Even if West Germany provides guarantees of access to the documents, the OSI is worried it could mean bureaucratic hassles and delays, the sources said. "These documents are irreplac-

able. Copies can't substitute for originals," said Kalman Sultanik. vice president of the World Jewish Congress.

When the United States banded original documents to Austria in 1955, which included files on Austrian members of the Nazi Party and dossiers on their activities, the records disappeared, the sonrces said.

Austria said the documents were lost but U.S. officials bebeve they were destroyed.

The disappearance came to bight during the 1986 investigation of the Nazi past of Austrian President Kart Waldheim. In 1987, Waldheim was barred from entering the United States because of his alleged involvement in persecution of Jews and of allied prisoners of war.

High tides solve traffic problem in Venice

continue to live in France.

VENICE (R) — High tides over the weekend filled the Venetian canals, which had sunk to dangerously low levels last week and imperiled the lifelines of this lagoon city. The rising waters also helped the arrival of guests for 3 launching of the Moro Di venezia, the yacht belonging to Italian tycoon Raul Garrini, which will be Italy's challenger in the 1992 America's Cup. "Traffic is back to normal through all canals, but the problem of accumulated mud is something which must be solved soon," said an official of the city waterworks, who spoke on condition of anonymity. Traffic on scores of small canals had come to a halt last week due to accumulated mud and projonged low tides.

Global weather (major world cities)

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Soviets could stay in reunited Germany -

PARIS (Agencies) — NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner was quoted Wednesday as saying Soviet troops could stay in a united Germany for a negotiated length of time.

regional French newspapers, interests would be respected.

Germany," be said. The Soviet Union, which has

ated with those nations. The secretary-general said that of those countries, Kenya has indicated it will keep its infantry battalion in Namibia, and Ghana and Pakistan have agreed to keep

Woerner in an interview with

said on the eve of talks in Bonn to discuss unification that the West could provide solid guarantees to the Soviet Union that its security "I do not want (NATO's) mil-

litary structure to be extended beyond the current borders of West Germany. I am even ready to consider a solution allowing the Soviets to maintain a presence for a certain time in East

called for a neutral Germany, has 380,000 troops in East Germany. Wherear said NATO was tooling on a story of the dimi-

the state of the s warsaw ract following the collapse of communism in several Eastern European countries. "It's under way. The threat has changed profoundly, it has diminished. We are replacing it (the

term 'threat') with a 'risk evalua-

tion.' I think this study will be

completed by May, to be discussed at a conference of NATO defence ministers," he said. He said the May meeting would discuss changes in NATO's military strategy and "on the substance and structure of defence planning."

NATO was considering a form "minimal deterrence" to reflect the lower military tension, but he said the Western alliance would not abandon its principle of flexible response, under which a combination of conventional and nuclear forces can be used as a crisis unfolds.

"I hope we can even reach agreement with the Soviet Union on such a structure," Woerner

The Soviet Union's moves towards a completely defensive military posture had not yet started and would take at least the years to achieve, he said. Meanwhile the head of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's party ack-

nowledged Tuesday that international concerns are slowing up German unification, and said the process could take three years to

Kohl has come under intense international scrutiny for trying

to push unification at a pace that has worried the Soviets as well as some of West Germany's own friends and neighbours. During the past few days, Kohl

has launched a campaign aimed at soothing any bad feelings his handling of the unification process may have created, vowing unity will not occur bebind other nations' backs. Kohl has also been fending off

charges he is too focused on trying to establish his name in the history books as the man who reunited Germany.

Volker Ruche, general secretary of Kohl's Christian Democratic Union, told reporters unification cannot be completed "as long as the external questions... are not settled."

Ruehe said unification would likely come "in steps" under Article 23 of West Germany's constitution, which allows for East German states to decide to join with their Western neighbour.

He also said all-German elections would not be likely until next year some time, at the ear-Nonetheless, West Germany

has not reversed its aim of forging

Woerner

Sunday elections. That would be an enormous step toward fusion of the two German states. It is also planned that at some point after the Sunday elections, the two German nations would

formally declare their intent to But Ruehe said because of enormously tricky complexities, the nnification process may require three or more years to

a West German state. The Saarland, once part of Adolf Hitler's Third Reich, was

came a West German state under agreements signed with France a year earlier. In 1959, the Saarland achieved full economic integration with West Germany.

The union of the two German nations could be even more com-

embargo and U.S. funding of the right-wing contra rebels who hat-Ortega said in a speech in Chile, tled the Sandinistas for eight tions of Patricio Aylwin's years, cost Nicaragua \$17 hillion. swearing-in as president. The promise of U.S. aid and Ortega, who is due to hand over power to the pro-U.S. Chathe end of a five-year economic embargo should prompt other nations to help Nicaragua's warmorro in six weeks, spoke before battered economy, political and business leaders said Tuesday. a crawd of some 5.000 pro-Cuban and pro-Sovit Chilean militants who repeatedly roared," Ortega. "This opens a lot of doors," Ortega, don't give up the said Ramiro Gurdian, head of the Superinr Council of Private En-Chamorro won an upset victury terprise. an organisation representing private business. "Invesin February's elections against tors will begin thinking about Ortega, whose Sandinistas have putting money into Nicaragua beruled Nicaragua since they tnpcause it now has access to the

"What's the use of remaining Earlier in Washington Presiin 1985 and asked Congress to

Commenting an Bush's decision, Ortega said: "No maner

Meanwhile a special U.N. representative on Nicaragua express-Castro will not be 'good

er," Castro said.

boy' and make concessions

'Nn revolution that ever makes concessions can save itseh," he added. Castro defiantly has rejected the Western-leaning reforms being embraced by Cuba's former allies in Eastern Europe and in-

sists Cuba will never abandon its one-party Communist system. "We know what a revolution is, what a revolution does," said the Cuban leader, who has ruled the Caribbean island since the 1959 popular revolution he led toppled right-wing dictator

Fulgencio Batista. About 20 heads of state, most of them from Latin America, are expected to attend Collor de Mello's inauguration in Brasilia Thursday. Also expected are Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez and Portuguese Presi-

dent Mario Soares. Castro said his trip to Brazil would show that Cuba was not becoming internationally isolated by the collapse of communism in

Eastern Europe.

which the rally organisers said totalled more than 40,000. "No."

they roared. "Never, that's the word, nev-

world news in brief

Shops close during Nepai strike

KATMANDU (AP) - Shops closed in the capital and two adjoining towns Wednesday to support a general strike called by the outlawed opposition to push a movement for greater democracy. State-run huses, a few taxis and private huses operated on the deserted streets of Katmandu, Patan and Bhaktapur. Some private vehicles also were seen. The strike was the third since Feb. 18 when the Nepali Congress Party launched a nationwide movement to restore multiparty democracy in this Himalayan country, one of the oldest monarchies in the world. The Nepali Congress Party, which is allied with the United Left Front coalition of seven Communist parties, demands an end to the 29-year-old partyless National Assembly, the Rashtriya Pan-

10 die in Bangladesh road accident

DHAKA (AP) - Two buses collided head-on near Dhaka, killing at least 10 people and injuring 70 others, police said Wednesday. Five people were killed instantly and five others died later in hospitals after Tuesday night's accident near Gazipur, 32 kilometres north of Dhaka, the police said, speaking on condition of anonymity. At least 22 of the injured were reported in serious

condition, they added. Immigrant youth killed in France

PARIS (R) - An immigrant youth shot last week by a cafe owner southeast of Paris died overnight, doctors said Wednesday. Said Mahnni had been in a coma since he was shot in the head with a rifle Friday night after a dispute with the cafe owner. He was the second immigrant youth killed in apparent racist incidents in France in the past week. Doctors said Said's brother, Miloud, 20, also shot in the incident in Saint Florentin, southeast of Paris, was out of immediate danger but might never walk again. French President Francois Mitterrand said Tuesday that such erimes would not be tolerated. "What is not acceptable is crime that has its origin in the rejection of others and that is inspired by instinctive hatred." Mitterrand said. On Saturday night, Majid Labdaoui, 17, was killed when a car driver deliberately ran him down, according to friends who survived the attack. The driver, said to have been drunk, has been charged with manslaughter.

Chinese party chief in N. Korea

TOKYO (AP) - Chinese Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin arrived in Pyongyang Wednesday on an official goodwill visit to North Korea, the North's afficial madia reported. The Roser's Central New Agency at Prop. 1 2012.
Propaging alreed by an event Livenie more in the Prop.

and by think for and indirect persons on the service of the also serves as North thoracle president. monitored in Tokyo, did not say what would be circulate by Jiang and the North Korean leader during the visit, Jiang's first trip outside China since assuming office last June. The visit is apparently aimed at further cementing the close ties between the two hard-line Communist states at a time when relations with the Soviet Union have been strained by Soviet reforms and ideologic-

UNITED NATIONS (AP) -Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has asked the Security Council to act urgently on a request to extend the U.N. presence in Namihia, set to gain independence next week after 75 years of South African rule.

Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda has asked Perez de Cuellar for an extension of at least three months of the U.N. mission nonitoring moves toward independence in Namibia.

The Sonth-West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO), fighting for independence since 1966, also wants some forces of the U.N. Transition Assistance Group to remain so the Namibian government led by Sam Nujoma can train a national army and

strengthen local police forces. The U.N. force, also known as UNTAG, at its peak had 4,470 military observers and 1,500 police supervisors. Hundreds of pollwatchers also were in Namibia during elections in November that gave SWAPO a majority of

seats in the constituent assembly. Perez de Cuellar said Tuesday the Security Council must decide soon if it intends to extend the U.N. mission in Namibia because plans are under way for the rapid withdrawal of international forces during the two weeks following independence on March 21. About 350 members of the U.N. police force and about 1,200 of

the military observers will have pulled out of Namibia by Friday. Before fighting stopped in April 1989 at the outset of the U.N.-supervised independence process, the South African defence Force, South-West Africa Territorial Force and the South-West African Police fongbt SWAPO units in the north. During the 23-year war, 20,000 peo-

ple in the country of about 1.5 million were killed. Fighting spilling over the border from the Angolian insurgency also has posed problems in northem Namibia.

Perez de Cuellar said there have been no reports of violence hy Angolan guerrillas in Namibia since Jan. 21, and there bas been a decline in incidents linked to

the South-West Africa Forces. But he added, "it cannot be denied that a potential problem exists and no one can predict with certainty that there will be no untoward developments during the period between UNTAG's withdrawal and the establishment of adequate Namibian security forces.'

Perez de Cuellar said he supnorts president-elect Nujoma's t of an identification to the desired for the second for Name . No liter integer to the under the

in his latting intends to be negoti-

police units there.

Over the years, the centre has

an economic union with East Germany soon after that nation's

complete, pointing out it took years for the Saarland to become

placed under French military occupation at the end of the war. In 1954, a French-West Ger-

man agreement provided for an autonomous Saarland and an economic union with France, but Saarlanders rejected the pact in a 1955 referendum. On Jan. I, 1957, Saarland be-